

Sketch-Book No. 21
continued from page 236 of
a small book in boards; Viz. from
July 31st 1847 to Decr. 31, 1847 in
clusive.

1847

August

1 Sunday. Morn cloudy, wind SW;
some rain fell, day partly fair.

2 Monday. Morn fair, wind W.
and fair day.

3 Tuesday. Morn fair, wind SW &
the day fair.
Revd. Mr. Day of Marlborough
called on me to inquire about In
dian transactions in this town.
Enquiries of this kind are becoming
frequent with men who make tours
through the country, especially with those
who have looked over our antiquities.
Mr Day proceeded to South Deerfield to
view Lothrop's battle ground, and
the monument at that place.
The Indian name of Marlborough is
said to have been Okamakamesit,
and first settled in 1654, and to have
suffered much in the Indian wars.

Indi
an in
quiries }
4 Wednesday: Morn fair, wind N.W. &
day fair & warm

5 Thursday. M. fair, wind N and SW
P.M. cloudy.

6 Friday. M. cloudy, wind N & W;
day cool & mostly cloudy~

7 Saturday M. cloudy with some rain
wind NE

8 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind NE, and
considerable rain

9 Monday. M. cloudy, with rain, and
NE wind.

August 10 Tuesday M. fair, wind SW.; day fair and hot.

11 Wednesday. M. fair, wind SW and fair and hot day. a small shower & some lightning

12 Thursday. M. fair, wind W. day fair & hot. Paid my own & sons taxes to the Collector, Fulton, amounting to \$15.56

13 Friday. M. fair, wind NW; day fair and hot.

14 Saturday. M. fair, wind W. & SW and warm air.

15 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW & NE; day fair

16 Monday M. fair, wind NE & day fair but hazy.

17 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE and NW an hot.

18 Wednesday. M. cloudy, with some rain & SW wind: soon fair & thus continued

19 Thursday. M. partially cloudy with some rain and wind W.

20 Friday. M. fair, wind SW. and cool air

21 Saturday. M. fair, wind SW; day fair but many broken clouds.

22 Sunday M. fair, wind S.W.: many scattering clouds during the day.

23 Monday. M. fair, wind not noticed.

24 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE; fair day & pleasant air.

25 Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE & SW

26 Thursday M. fair, wind NW & fair day.

August Friday M. fair, wind SW, day
 27 mostly fair, but cloudy at night
 with some rain.
 28 Saturday. M. cloudy, with rain
 & NW wind.
 29 Sunday. M. thinly cloudy, wind
 SW, but the day fair & pleasant.
 30 Monday. M. fair, wind NW;
 day fair & pleasant.
 31 Tuesday. M. fair, wind SW. and
 fair day.

Septem
ber 1. Wednesday. M. fair, wind NW;
 day clear & pleasant.
 2 Thursday. M cloudy, wind NW;
 soon became fair & so continued
 Mr. Ebenezer Sexton died this morn
 aged about 81 years
 3 Friday. M. cloudy, but sun soon
 seen; and SE & variable day
 hazy
 4 Saturday. M. cloudy, wind S. at
 4 PM a shower with some thunder
 a rare occurrence
 5 Sunday M. cloudy, wind SE and
 variable; day cloudy, but som[e] sun
 seen occasionally.
 6 Monday. M fair, wind NW, and
 fair day
 7 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE and
 day partly cloudy.
 8 Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind NW
 day cloudy & a fall of rain.
 9 Thursday. M broken clouds, wind S.
 day fair with some showers,
 a Letter from Son & Daughter, at Ver
 genes, Vt.

September Friday M. cloudy, wind NE, and day fair.

10 Saturday. M. cloudy, wind NE & some rain.

11 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind NE, and day cloudy

12 Monday. M. cloudy with rain, wind NE; rain last night heavy; the day partly fair

13 Tuesday M. fair, wind NE and day alternately cloudy.

14 Wednesday M. fair, wind NW and day fair; wind PM West.

15 For several days past I have used a fire in my sitting room, & probably our hot season is past. Part of the summer has been hot and with a remarkable absence of thunder showers, and I think no severe one has here occurred. This change in the aspect and severity of the showers, seems not to be proven to our young people, though I have noticed the fact for several years past.

Infrequency of thunder showers } To account for these variations in the phenomena of thunder showers

Re marks on } no satisfactory data offer. We may suppose variations are taking place in the lower atmosphere, from the clearing off the woods of our extensive country, but in what manner this should effect evaporation and electricity is not clear. Of one thing we may rest sure viz: that the laws of nature are inviolable and fixed, yet not fully understood

16 Thursday. M. fair, wind SW; last night a small frost occurred, seen on the morn upon the grass; the day very clear; cool, and a considerable breeze prevailed.

Septem
ber 16 For some time past we
have heard little from the move
ments of our armies in Mexico; but
recent intelligence says, Gen. Scott has
arrived near the city of Mexico, had
two battles, and driven the Mexicans
into the city, with a considerable Loss
of men; the particulars not received

Gen. Scott's
Army } 17 Friday. M fair, wind N.W. and
cold air, rendering fire agreeable.
a small frost seen on the morn & a
fine clear day & cool air.

18 Saturday M. cloudy, some
rain, wind N, day partially fair
The papers now give us some
details of Gen. Scott's battles on the 19th
and 20th of August, in the vicinity of the
city of Mexico, from which it appears,
that the fighting was severe and much
loss sustained on both sides. The Mexi
cans were covered by strong batteries
and much artillery, which were car
ried by desperate charges. The New
York & S Carolina regiments of volunteers suffered
severely, the latter nearly cut to pieces;
Imperfect lists of the killed wound
ed officers is given, and the whole loss
of Scott's force, about 10 or 11,000; the
Mexicans loss much more severe. The
returns are probably imperfect, and
official accounts are wanting. Gen
Scott is said to have received a
slight wound in his leg.
The Mexicans retreated to their City,
and the following armistice agreed on
“Neither army to be reinforced nor build new
defences during the armistice, nor go beyond

Scotts
Battles
of the
10th &
20th
ult. }

Septr 18 its present line; in short the two armies are in no way to interfere with each other, without 48 hours notice” Peace it is expected will soon follow; and the Daily Republican (Springfield of this day, says, that a treaty has been signed by Mr. Trist and the Mexican commissioners: Probably true, and on terms dictated at Washington anti bellum.

Report ed peace } 19 Sunday. M. fair, wind E.
most of the day clouded, & air cool
Seventy years ago this day the patriot force under General Gates met the disciplined veterans of General Burgoyne, on Bemus Heights in the north part of Stillwater in the state of New-York, and a severe contest ensued, which terminated in the what was called a drawn battle. The British held the contested ground and the americans retired to their fortified lines about a mile distant, both sides suffering a severe loss, for the number engaged. Total Americans, 320 including 30 officers; on the part of the British as acknowledged by themselves their loss was upwards of 500, including wounded & missing. The British 62d regiment numbering on the 1st of July, 541, including officers, it is stated, did not exceed 60 men & 5 or 6 officers, fit for duty, after the battle. On the 7th of October, following, a second battle was fought, nearly on the same ground, and Burgoyne defeated & compelled to retreat to Saratoga, where he surrendered his army to the Americans.

Anniver sary of the bat tle at Bemus heights } Loss of men } Reflec tions } Most of the heroes who fought on these memorable fields have gone to their

Septr
19

their last homes, and the obscure mounds of the slain still "Tell a sad tale of glory gone, of valor sleeping dark and lone" At this eventful period, the wounded patriot, struggling under his mortal stroke, consoled himself with the reflection that he had risked his life to establish the independence of his country and the happiness of his posterity.

Mexican War } How different the motives of the present war with Mexico? Alas! in this we behold a war of invasion and of injustice, having for its object the conquest of a neighboring republic, without regard to right, or good neighborhood. In this war we see corps of young men enlisting under the stimulus of chivalry, to kill Mexicans for daring to resist our encroachments on their territory. Alas! What a different stimulus from that of the heroes of our revolution, who had in view the right of men and the happiness of society! When we hear of hundreds & thousands of men falling in the battle fields of Mexico, we cannot but enquire what consolation the mortally wounded officer or soldier can derive from his empty chivalry; At this arises the question will the forcibly presented why am I here thus exposing my life? Once the gloss of military chivalry will varnish; nor will any of the consolation of our revolutionary patriots be found. History may relate their exploits, but it will also

No support from patriot ism }

Also tell of the injustice of the cause in which they were engaged, and felt.
 Septr 19 A few names may be remembered, but the patriot will regret they fell in a cause which had not justice & humanity for its design.

20 Monday m. partially cloudy, wind N.E. and day generally cloudy. the air rather warmer than some days past. We wait with impatience for the results of Gen. Scott's battles in the vicinity of the Mexican capital, and ardently hope they will be an equitable peace with the Mexican Government. What terms Mr. Trist is instructed to offer we know not; but from the obvious design of the war, in the first instance, no doubt [] [] that one half or two thirds of the Mexican territory is to be annexed to the United States; and to give the transfer the appearance of a purchase, no doubt Mr. Polk's three millions of pocket money will be called into requisition. The rapacious eye of democracy was early turned to this section of Mexico, and Presidents Monroe & Polk have more than hinted at the course we are to follow in regard to it; and whether that feeble republic, will be permitted to retain an independent government is a doubtful question. The next stride in this rapacious system, will be the Island of Cuba, and are long other West India islands. Let the nations of Europe look to their interests in season.

Thou ghts in relation to peace with Mex ico }
 Prob able terms of a treaty }
 The ra pacious system }

Septr 21 Tuesday. M. Cloudy, wind N.W.
most of day fair.
Wrote a letter to Arthur & Elizabeth
at Vergennes Vt.; and received letters
from Dr. Sevitt and wife, at Ridgeway
state of New-York in answer to one
to her. She says their neighbors in
Ridgeway have been uncommonly
sickly. This season & many have died
I suppose of fevers. This it is found
that fevers will often prevail in new
countries, even in our Latitude. Is this
owing to vegetable decomposition,
which in a miasma ceases when
the surface of the ground is thorough
ly cultivated? The state of health
in this town has been good during the
season, our Dr says he never knew
the season more healthy.
At New Orleans the yellow fever
has been prevalent, and the papers
say so continuous, That place, it is
believed, will always prove a Golgo
tha, and no prudent northern
man will select it for a residence

22 Wednesday M. fair, wind N.E. &
changed to W.
This day autumnal Equinox and
day and night of equal length.
Wrote a letter to Dr Eeles of
Lithopolis, Ohio, by his wife Lucre
tia & sister Elizabeth, who sets
out for that place tomorrow. They
proceed by rail road to Buffalo;
then by steam boat up Lake Erie,
and thence the most direct route
to their destination, a long route
for ladies without aid & protection.

To Dr Eeles of Ohio }
23 Thursday M foggy, wind N.W. but
soon fair and very clear day. P.M. wind SW

Sepr
23 Took a ride to the west bank of the Connecticut, and spent the day at Mr Smith's, near the old Cobb Ferry: the lands along the river are generally cleared and cultivated, affording pretty good farms to our southern extremity.

Connec
ticut
river,
naviga
tion from
&c. } The boating and lumber business in the river has diminished since the construction of our rail road, but still some heavy articles are transported on the river. I noticed a large boat with sails ascending by a southerly wind. Probably some of the heavy articles will continue to be transported on the river in preference to rail road conveyance. At a suitable height of water the navigation from Hartford to our Cheapside landing is good safe and eligible.

24 Friday. M. cloudy, wind N.E.
and day continued cloudy~

Demo
critic
nomina
tion of
Governor } On Wednesday last a Democratic Convention held at Worcester, nominated Caleb Cushing, one of Mr Polk's newly fledged Generals of the Mexican army, as the candidate for their next governor. This restless party will continue their efforts so long as they believe it possible to effect their objects by deceiving the people by false representations. Hence it appears, that the next president and our next governor is to be taken from the army. without regard to civil qualifications. When a people become thus enamored of military show, it is a proof that they have lost their political discernment and would readily submit to a despot. A military commander may be able in the field, and yet weak, and even

Septr even corrupt, as civil leader.
 24 Washington was an exception but
 General at this day where are we to look
 Cushing the for Washingtons? Not in the hands
 favorite } of the demagogues of wild democracy, who would prefer a Caligula
 or a Nero, to a virtuous civilian.
 General Cushing's ambitious views
 are, however, too well known in Massachusetts by the discerning part of the
 people to admit of popularity; nor
 has he acquired this éclat of his sword
 Re which democracy deems indispensably
 marks necessary to high state elevation. Yet
 on the believing it possible that the General's
 nomi feather and cockade, with his dis
 nation interested patriotism might charm young
 men at the ballot box, the leaders of
 this uneasy party have presented
 his name as candidate for the first officer of our State. When he accepted of the
 command of our volunteer regiments,
 did the General anticipate this effort of his friends? Men less eagle
 eyed, have pursued such a course,
 and sometimes successfully, and the
 General lacks not perseverance ~
 From the annual efforts of this
 uneasy party, or rather I should say,
 the leaders of the party, one unac-
 quainted with the conditions of
 our state, might suppose the people
 labored under some great grievance,
 which called for a remedy, but
 on investigation he finds nothing
 to support this supposition, and
 the whole uneasiness is found
 to exist in the mad ambition of a
 very few, who knew how to disturb
 the harmony of society. Divested of
 their uneasy men, our political machine
 would move on without clashing, and the
 people would be as happy at life []

of man admits. What patriot then,
 Septr
 can rest complacently under these dis
 24
 turbing forms. Which his duty compels
 Duty
 him to resist at every returning elec
 of the
 tion, as he would an enemy ever
 Patriot } ready for the destruction of your lives
 property, and all that is dear in
 well regulated society.

In the course of proceeding of the con
 vention a series of abolition resolutions
 were introduced. At first, it is said
 Slavery } they were received with manifest marks
 resolu
 tions in
 the con
 vention
 and
 rejected } of disapprobation and some perter
 bation: but order being restored their
 reading was silently permitted, and
 they laid on the table. The master
 spirits no doubt saw that this step
 would meet the frown of their south
 ern brethren, and the resolutions
 of course suffered to sleep undisturbed.

No! these sticklers of the rights of
man must not touch upon slavery,
 the ground basis of southern liberty
 with which "northern men have
 no concern." The members of the
 convention may flatter themselves that
 they still rouse a war spirit at the
 coming election and carry the strong
 works of the friends of liberty; but it
 is believed the good sense & firmness
 of a majority of the people of the state,
 will again put to flight utopian
 forces.

25 Saturday. M. cloudy, wind N.E.
 and a cloudy day. The air rather cool
 and soak rain at the close
 26 Sunday M. cloudy & wind N.E.;
 day continued cloudy, with cold air
 27 Monday m. cloudy, NE wind;
 day generally cloudy. More

Septr 27 More than a month has elapsed since General Scott's battles at the City of Mexico, yet no official account has been before the public. In cases of severe losses it is sometimes good policy in a Commander or a government to withhold full details of the losses sustained in battle, especially when the army is to be supplied with recruits from the populace, as in the present war, where volunteers are to be enlisted for the occasion, in which a chivalrous spirit is the stimulus.

No of
ficial
accounts
of the
late Bat
tles } In Napoleon's battles accurate details of losses, I believe, were seldom given to the public; but his conscription system, enabled him to supply his losses on the shortest requisition. After the retreat from Moscow in which Napoleon's army was nearly annihilated, he raised an additional force of 350,000, within a few months by the aid of his conscription.

Re
marks
on } In our war with Mexico, we have to contend with a more distinctive power than the military arm of that republic,--the malaria of a tropical country—details of which will not appear until the war closes when we may look for a horrid account of suffering from the medical department.

28 Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind S.W. soon after noon the sun appeared and the remainder of day fair & pleasant, wind west.

Wednesday. M. fair, wind W.
 and day clear
 The Whig Convention of our state
 assembles at Springfield this day for
 the nomination of Governor & Lieut. Gover
 for the year ensuing. No provision
 is made in the Constitution for this
 formal nomination; but at a time
 when a misguided party is endeavor
 ing to effect [] innovations in the
 policy of the state & ~~the practice~~ such convention may
 be convenient, if not necessary, Were
 the nomination left to the news-
 papers, many names might be pre
 sented, and so divide the votes of
 the people that no election would
 take place. But it is to be regretted
 that this necessity exists, and probably
 will continue to exist, as long as so man
 ny are eligible to the office. The
 people can be misled; The
 present Incumbent it is presumed
 will be renominated, and be
 preferred by the people, to
 one now seeking fame by his
 sword in a war of invasion
 for the conquest of territory
 from a neighboring republic;
 whose only crime is the defense
of its rights, against flagrant
 usurpation and injustice, at which
 patriotism recoils, and humanity
 shudders. A war commenced
 by enlawful strides of the Presi
 dent and now continued for
 the consummation of its base
 designs:- Viz: the annexation of
 a large portion of the Mexican
 territory of Mexico, to the United States
 for objects obvious to common dis
 cernment.

Sepr Thursday. M cloudy, with
30 some rain, wind S.W.; Sun
 appeared about half past ten, and
 the day continued fair & cloudy
 alternately; the air rather cool.

October 1 Friday. M. foggy, wind SW, variable
 but sun soon out and dry

Proceed The Springfield Daily Republican
ings of of yesterday give the proceedings
the State of the Whig Convention at that
Convention place. George Ashman was chos
at Spring en President, and on taking the
field chair made an appropriate ad
 dress touching upon Mr Polk's
 war, with his usual good sense,
 He said, "We have prospects of a peace, it
 is true. But who can say whether the
 terms will not be almost if not quite
 as bad as war. Darkness clouds the
 future. We are committing a greater
 crime indeed than war; we are to
 rob another nation of its fine har
 bors, rivers and lands—and for what
 To present to the world the spectacle
 of a nation hanging new fitters for human be
 ings. Massachusetts has once expressed
 her views upon this state of things.
 But we should not separate without
 once again more in the most solemn manner
 announcing our deep seated hatred of this robbe
 ry of the lands of other countries in
 which to implement and stimulate anew
 the institution of slavery."

Mr On collecting votes for a candidate
Ash for Governor George N. Briggs had 571
mans and 22 of scutting. It was then voted
remakrs that Mr Briggs be unanimously nom
at. inated. On counting the votes for Lt.
 Governor, the number was found to be
 572, all for John Neece.

State of In the course of the proceedings Daniel
the votes Webster

for Gov }
ernor }
&c }

October 1	Webster delivered a speech, an abstract of which is given in the <u>Daily</u> , the <u>whole</u> to be printed at Boston under the sanction of Mr Webster.
Mr Web sters speech at.	A series of Resolutions, expressing the sentiments of the Convention on the <u>war</u> were passed, one of which recommends <u>Daniel Webster</u> of Mass to the favor able consideration of the Whig na
Recom menda tion of the Pre sidency	tional convention, as a Candidate for the office of President of the U. States, and Rufus Choate of Boston and Wm G Bates of Westfield were chosen for Delegates to the said Whig Convention with substitutes, if required.
Diversi ty of opin ion in the con vention	On naming a candidate for the Presidency <u>at this time</u> , there was a diversity of opinion in the Convention, some believe ing it would have no useful effect. Mr Webster's great political talents & long public services, no doubt, pre sent the strongest claims to the Presiden cy; but these very claims will pre vent his selection for that office:
Remarks on the recommend ation	And I will venture the assertion that no eminent men will be selected for that office, so long as a majority of the people believe that great talent and aristocracy are connected. Some military Chief, or obscure individu al, known to be subservient to wild democracy, will be nominated & probably elected. A Washington, at this day, would be repudiated by the arts of demagogues.
Words of the Resolu tion adopted	Notwithstanding these consideration the Convention adopted the following: <u>Re solded</u> Therefore That the Whig of Massachusetts earnestly & unanimously recommend <u>Daniel Webster</u> of Massachusetts, to the fa vorable consideration of the Whig national Convention, as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.

Octr 2 Saturday M. fair, wind SW, and
 a fair day followed, & wind changed
 to N.E. We have nothing certain
 in relation to a peace with Mexico
 Flushed with a series of victory
 Mr Polk and his Cabinet may
 insist on terms, to which Mexi
 co cannot accede in which case
 the war may be continued &
 the Mexicans taught to cope with
 our chivalrous troops.

Late news from Mexico }
 Daily of this day, announces, that
 "the peace negotiation have failed:
 that hostilities were renewed on the
 8th of September, when another battle
 took place, in which the Mexicans
 were defeated; and that, at last ac
 counts, our troops had possession of
 a portion of the city, and were
 driving the Mexicans before them
 Gen. Worth has been wounded."
 The accounts are derived from
 the N. York Journal of Commerce and
 Herald of yesterday, via Verz Cruz.

Hostil ities renewed }
 From the details received, it appears
 the Mexicans are far from surrend
 ering their rights to our invaders,
 and that a spirit is rousing in the
 country that may, at length, show
 they are not ready for vassalage.

3 Sunday. M. fair, wind N.E. and
 fair day. Our night are now gen
 erally frosty, and some of the old
 elms & some maples begin to show
 the fall hue. Towards the close
 of the day, wind S.E.

4 Monday. M. foggy, but soon
 clear with NE wind, and a
 fair day succeeded.

Octr 4 Association of American Geologists and Naturalists.

Geolog
ical So
cietists } This association met at Boston last week on Tuesday & continued in business to Saturday, inclusive. A great variety of subjects were brought forward & discussed Among the members of the association are some of our most scientific men who freely bestow their labors for the promotion of useful knowledge. Their meetings are held, by adjournments from place to place, as circumstances dictate. This meeting was adjourned to the 3d Wednesday of September 1848, to meet at Philadelphia~

Details of pro
ceedings } In the Boston Journal of the 31th ult: we have a detail of the proceedings during the five days, which are very interesting to the enquiring philosopher An interesting paper was read by Mr. E.G. Squier, entitled, "Observations on the Fossils, Minerals, organic Remains &c. found in the Mounds of the West". Mr Squiers combats the ideas of the mounds being natural formations, & brings incontrovertible proof of their artificial structure.

Mounds of the
West } It is said that the 1st Book published by the Smithsonian Institution will be a work on American Archaeology a narrative of researches and discoveries in the mounds of the West, made by E.G. Squier & Dr. E.H Davis of Ohio; the work to be accompanied by drawings of the relics, surveys of the fortification &c &c. It is the opinion of scientific men, that this Vol contains more information on the subject of the race of people once inhabiting this continent, than all the volumes that have been published.

New
work
prom
ised }

Octo
ber 4 During the sitting of the Associates
 President Everett of the Cambridge
 University, communicated to them
 a letter from Mr. Bond of the
 Cambridge Observatory, contain
 ing proofs of the excellence
of the Telescope in that obser
 vatory. Mr Bond says, in his let
 ter (Sept. 22, 1847) "the great Nebula
in Orion has yielded to the power
 of our incomparable Telescope. The
 Telescope was set upon the Trapezium
 in the great Nebula of Orion under a
 power of 200; the 5th star was immedi
 ately conspicuous; but our attention
 was directly absorbed with the splendid
 undulations made in its immediate neigh
 borhood. This part of the nebula
 was resolved into bright points of light,
 The number of the stars was too great
 to attempt counting them; many were
 however readily located and mapped
 The double character of the brightest
 star of the Trapezium was readily re
 cognized with a power of 600—This
 is [] 6th Star; and certain of the
 stars composing the Nebula were seen
 as double stars under this power."
 If this Telescope has thus resolved the Nebula
 of Orion, its power must excel that
 of Herchel's Reflector, or Lord Rosse's
 three feet mirrors, which Mr Bond
 says, "gave not" the slightest trace of resolva
 bility."
 The Nebualan Hypothesis of the Elder Her
 chel, supposes that nebulous masses ex
 ist, which are in process of combination
 into systems, while others are real clusters
 of stars; but the changes which the mil
 ky nebulosity in Orion, has [] one,
 second to him, to indicate that it is not
 composed of stars. The Hypothesis is now
 [] by some, astronomers & the neb
 ulea supposed to be stellar.

Mr. Bonds letter on the Cambridge Telescope }
 Nebula of Orion made a test }
 And resolved into stars }

Tuesday m. fair, wind N.E. and day
 clear. wind PM. SW
 Accounts from Mexico say
 the armistice between Scott and
 Santa Anna ended on the eighth, and
 that after severe fighting the former
 entered the city of Mexico on the 16th, inst.
 and the Mexicans retired to Guadalupe
 If the Mexicans are determined on fur
 ther resistance, will it not be difficult
 for Scott to find subsistence for his ar
 my in so interior a position? When
 an invading army acts on a long
line of operation, it may be cut off
 from its base by an enemy in the
 rear. Aware of this Scott will be
 cautious of further advances into
 the interior, until he is reinforced
 and assured of supplies for his troops
 and with reinforcements, should
 he attempt to operate by detachments
eccentrically, he may be defeated
 in detail. The guerilla system, adopt
 ed by the Mexicans, promises success
 if general actions be avoided, and
 the Petite Guerre be vigorously prose
 cuted. To conquer & hold the country
vit armis will require an army
 of, at least, 50,000 men, spread over the
 country, protected by fortified works
 But a country of 6 or 7 millions of
 people, provided with Arms and mu
 nitions of war, are not be conquered
 by ordinary means.

Wednesday. M fair, wind N.E.
 the day fair, but somewhat breezy
 and the wind veered from NE through
 the eastern semicircled to the SW.
 Similar variation of the wind
 have occurred, on several prior
 days, indicating a variable state
 of atmospheric pressure.

October Thursday M. cloudy
 7 wind N. the day continued
 cloudy, and wind [] to S & W
 thence to N.E. The changes of this
 day appear to be in an opposite di
 rection to those of yesterday.

8 Friday. M. cloudy wind
 N.E., rain about noon; the
 day continued cloudy with
 some rain, and an afternoon wind
 at N.E.
 Received a Letter from my con
 nexions at Vergennes of the 4th
 Letter } from inst. A sort of Influenza has
 my prevailed at Vergennes for some time
 friends } which has affected many, among
 whom were Arthur & little Charles
 The former made a tour of three
 days to the Fair at Saratoga, taking
 the route through Lake George and
 Glens Falls village- says he was
 well paid. The route from Ticonde
 roga to Glens falls, passes over much
 interesting ground rendered memorable
 in military history; but he needed
 me as a guide to the places/spots most
 interesting, especially in the war of
 1755, now almost lost to the pre
 sent generation.

9 Saturday. m. cloudy, but fair
 before noon, and a N.W. wind of
 considerable briskness prevailed;
 the day continued fair.

10 Sunday M. fair, wind N.W.
 and brisk; the day clear, and
 air cool. Many of the deciduous
 trees now show the fall hue, yel
 low and red- a curious phenomena
 said not to exist in all parts of
 the temperate zones.

Monday M. fair, wind S.W. and
 Octr 11 day generally clear
 The war; } From the latest accounts from Mexi-
 capture co it appears that Scotts and Santa
 of Mexico Anna's forces have had a series of
 hard fighting from the 8th to the 16th
 ult. since the termination of the Ar-
 mistice and great loss of lives has
 been sustained on both sides. The att-
 acks on the city of Mexico were
 made both by bombardment & desper-
 ate assaults. But as yet we have no
official reports from either army
 Reflec } The Mexicans, it is said, fought with
 tions } resolution, but were compelled to re-
 tire before the vandalic chivalry of
 our troops. What will be the result of
 the capture of the city of Mexico we
 have yet to learn; but the war will
 probably continue for some time
 and perhaps the Mexicans will at length
 learn to beat our invading troops who fight for
 conquest regardless of moral principles
 and the rights of man.
 By the discerning & candid part of
 community, the war is viewed with
 detestation; but so long as a majority
 of the people can be deluded by dema-
 gogues whose moral principles are no check to injustice, the
 war may be popular. When however,
 loans can no longer be obtained &
direct taxes shall be resorted to, the
 people as Mr. Jefferson said in another
 case, "will be set to rights." (See his let-
 ter to James T. Callender Oct. 6, 1799)
 The ob- } The designs of the war have been obvi-
 jects of } ous from the moment Mr Polk or-
 the war } dered Gen. Taylor to advance from the
 obvious } Neuces to the Rio Grand; but if any war so
 blind as not to have seen them at that
 time, the terms of peace he has now offered
 the Mexicans, though Mr Trist will open
 the eyes of the blindest Delinda

Octr 11
 Mr Polks stand ard de scribed } “Delinda est Carthago” is inscribed on Mr Polk’s Standard and the Rifle and Bowie knife stand out in bold relief. Among its armorials; on the reverse side a Black man in Chains, pleading for mercy from his ruthless master, and underneath, the motto No Wilmot Proviso”.

This standard of American Republicanism once firmly planted in all parts of Mexico, will it insure the rights of the people?

Cuba the next object } Cuba will next receive the fater nal hug. Already is she marked for prey by our Southern brethren and Northern democrats; and “an nexation” and “an army of observation” will soon complete the work of love.

The Sa bel Gov ernment of Hayti } The sable government of Hayti must also come under our Sur veillance A nation of free blacks in our vicinity, is incompatible with enlightened republicanism. The inhabitants may furnish convenient supplies for the new and old slave state of our Union.

Other W. Indian Islands } The British and French Islands, protected by, their present owners, may remain without our grasp for a time, but those of Spain will fall an easy prey to our republican strides. Let the nations of Europe look to their interests before too late~

Warnings to Europe } These predictions lay no claim to prophetic aid: they are plain results of the principles held out to the people by their deceptive rulers, who feel no [] from moral laws. But let it be remembered, that though we, like the Romans, may extend our conquests to unknown limits, we shall at length, like them, [] to naught- a corrupt people cannot escape the fate that awaits, corrupt ambition.

Octr 12 Tuesday M. fair, but soon cloudy
 and wind SW air cool; the
 day continued [] and
 a sprinkling of rain fell. In
 the evening the rain increased
 13 Wednesday. M. Cloudy wind
 W. & the day fair
 Agricultural meeting at Northampton }
 Re marks on their utility }
 The greatest benefits derived from these meetings will be the increase of manures and their application to the different kinds, to the nature of the soils; and also improvements in the breeds of cattle of the bovine kinds; and here experiments will be found more convincing than theoretical rules. In the fabrication of domestic articles an emulation will be created, which, if confined to the useful will be beneficial. Since men will have their holy days, let these meetings be their sport.

Octr 14 Thursday. M fair, wind NW and variable; day continued fair, but with scattering, clouds and the air cold. Most of our street maples display the yellow of Autumn. One of these trees in front of and about 20 feet east of my house, still retains its dark green hue, as if no frost had occurred Is this owing to position or to some property differing from the others in the same range? or group Whether this change of color, as explained by Professor Hitchcock, in his Geological Report, That it proceeds from an increased oxygenation of the coloring matter of the leaves, be correct I am not able to determine: Analogous cases, he thinks, are found in the chemical laboratory, and instances the Chamelear Mineral But whatever be the cause of this chemical change, it is clear that the freezing of the leaf is the first step in the process; the death and fall of the leaf following, while the tree retains its vegetable life.

Suppos ed Course } 15 Friday M. fair, wind S.W. and day partially cloudy.

16 Saturday. M. fair, wind W. During the day the wind was variable from W. to E. and the sky very clear

17 Sunday. M. fair, wind S.W., day fair but some what hazy.

18 Monday. Morn foggy, wind S.W. & some thin clouds. The afternoon fair clear and considerable breeze.

Octr 18 No official accounts of Gen. Scotts late battle and operations at the City of Mexico, have been laid before the public.

No of ficials from Gen Scott } For this delay we cannot account but by supposing an interruption of the Generals communication with Vera Cruz by the Mexican Guerillas. Reinforcements it is said, are on the march from that place to join Gen. Scott at the City of Mexico. This reinforcement may enable the General to hold his position; but will his line of operation to Vera Cruz be safe from the attacks of the guerillas? In an invasion of a hostile country the task of supplying provisions is sometimes difficult, especially when the enemy are determined on resistance. Witness Bonapart's invasion of Russia and his diasterous retreat. If the Mexicans act with vigor in cutting off Scott's supplies, he may find it difficult to maintain his position in the interior. The difficulty of supplying armies in and invasion of an extensive country is not always considered by commanders who think tactical maneuvers & fighting battles the chief business. Remarking upon his invasion of the State of New York in 1777, General Burgoyne said. "How zealously [] a General in such an undertaking as mine, may be served by the chiefs of departments, for one hour he can find to contemplate how to fight his army, he must allot twenty to contrive how to feed it."

Gen Bur goyne on supplying armies }

19 Tuesday m. cloudy wind SW. the day continued cloudy, with moderate air.

Octr 20 Wednesday. M. fair, wind N.E.:
 the day fine and pleasant.

Headleys
 Wash
 ington
 & his
 Generals } My Son sends me "Washington and
his Generals" by Headley, in 2. Vols.
 with 16 portraits, a work that at
 tracts much attention, particularly
 from the young, who are not
 extensively acquainted with the
 war of the Revolution. Mr Headly
 holds a lively pen and portrays
 military contest in an attractive
 manner, but in some instances in
 accurately. His description of Battles
 are too flowery, and dramatic
 and poetical for the scientific reader.

Char
 acter of } In his account of the battle of the 19th of September
 the work } 1777, at Bemus heights, Mr. Headly has given
 full play to his fancy, and imported but little
 information in relation to the real facts.
 The whole seems to be a bloated strain to show the
 superiority prowess of raw militia over disciplined
 troops: All that can be learned from it
 is that the Americans fought bravely, but
 it happens that but a small portion of them were militia.
 Excepting the contest on Freemans field
 other some parts of the battle are wholly omitted;
 and the part General Frazer took on the
 battle up on the heights, on the extreme right of
 Burgoyne entirely is unnoticed. This 2d battle, the 7th
 of October, is much of the same character.
 In both Mr Headly speaks of Gen. Gates
 in degrading terms, and attributes to General
 Arnold all the good conduct of our troops,
 while it is known that this General had
 little or no shame in the first battle.
 In other parts of the work I notice errors which
 should have escaped his pen, and which a
 more careful and patient investigation would
 have prevented.

Octr 21 Thursday. M. fair, wind W. and day
fair and pleasant.
Our annual election of State
The approach } officers is now approaching and
of course all the arts of demagogues
ing Election } are put in motion to mislead
the people. An employed officer of
our army in Mexico, noticed for his
ambition for place, is brought to
the test, instead of its tried patri
ot against whom not an item of
complaint can be conquered up.
Under the hope that the tinsel show
Re } marks } of war will take with the young
and inconsiderate, the uneasy party
flatter themselves they shall exercise
their votes at the ballot box. Vain
hope! The people of Massachusetts,
we trust, are not to be thus hoodwinked
they dearly see the wickedness of the
war, and the unconstitutional man
ner in which it was commenced
by Mr Polk, and look to Congress
to check his audacity. His usurpa
tion of power, we believe, will end
with his four years as he be suffered
to return to his former obscurity.

22 Friday. M. cloudy with some rain
wind N.W. PM. fair; at night cloudy
New } work } My esteemed Nephew, Dr. Stephen W.
Williams, presents me his work just
from the press, entitled "The Genealogy
and History of the Williams family
of Williams in America" including
elegant portraits. 1 Vol. pp. 424.
The History of a single family may
at first appear of limited public in
terest, and as commanding the attention
of but a few readers. But the name
of Williams is widely extended over every
part of the United States as well as in

Octr 22 in England, that its history embraces much of that of the two countries; and no one I think can peruse this work without meeting with matter of general interest. Dr Williams has evinced great assiduity and extensive research, in the collection of matter for the work, and deserves not only the thanks of the family but of the public generally.

Willi
ams }
family }

23 Saturday M fair, wind NW, and day fair.

Chole
ra in }
Europe }

By the arrival of the steam ship Cambria at Boston, intelligence is received of the progress of the Asiatic Cholera in the north of Europe. Its course is similar to that which it took in its first visit, from east, to the west of Europe. Probably it will again cross the atlantic and visit the United States, in which case we shall hardly need a war to depopulate the country~

24 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind N.; and day cloudy with some rain. P.M. air cold. We still anticipate a series of pleasant days before dreary winter sets in

25 Monday. M. cloudy, wind SW. most of the day fair with strong SW wind, which stripped our maples of most of their yellow dress. A priore who could conceive that these trees retained their living principle and would regain put forth their foliage in the spring season, and what stronger proof do we find of an intelligent over arching course, beyond our comprehension? In short, the whole system of nature tends to the same conclusion; and man is but a link in the great chain of being

Octr 26 Tuesday. M fair, wind N.W. and
fair day; In the evening the air
was uncommonly cold for the season

27 Wednesday M. fair, wind NE
and water in vessels covered with
ice. The day continued fair
and the air rather cold; and wind
shifted to S.W.

28 Thursday. M. fair, wind W & NW
and cold air; the day clear & cool
and the evening pretty [] so
Headleys American Generals

Headley's Generals } At page 27 I have briefly noticed this
work and given my views of its
character, and on a thorough
perusal, I find no reasons for vary-
ing my opinion. To those who are
well acquainted with the war, from
recollection, or from the sober histories
of Gorden, Ramsay and Marshall little
that is new will be found new in

Chivalous } Mr Headly's work. True indeed, his
description of battles are more chivol-
rous than in the authors named;
but less satisfactory to the military
reader, who analyses the movements
by fixed principles of war.

Plan of his work } But it seems the design of the Author
was quite different. In his preface he
says, "In all histories of that event,
movements and results are given
rather than scenes; and hence, while
the plan and progress are clearly de-
veloped, the heroic character and
thrilling interest of the struggle are in
a great measure lost. It thus necessarily
becomes a matter of business, and the
enthusiasm and fervor which char-
acterized it, and indeed were the most
remarkable facts of all, do not have their
due prominence. It

Octr

28

Scene
ry &
spirit

"It is a little strange that a war embracing more of the romantic and heroic of any that ever transpired should appear on record so tame and business like. But in the effort to render to every regiment and company its due honor, and to give an exact description of the man ner in which every battle is fought, the spirit is necessarily lost sight of; yet the complete historian feels under obligation to do this. My plan does not confine me to such details; and hence while I have endeavored to present a correct and accurate description of every battle field. I have often sunk minor movements and individual actions, in order to prevent confusion. In writing accounts of a campaign or battle, for a military man, one needs to look on it from a different point of view than he would in writing for the general reader."

Speci
men
of his
descrip
tionsBemus
heights

Here we have the plan of Mr Headly's work, and it must be acknowledged that he has pretty closely adhered to it. The sc[e]nery is the important parts of the battles. Thus in Gates first battle at Bemus heights "Nought broke the silence that wrapped the heights, save the hurried orders as regiment of regiment wheeled into its place; while the sun shone sweetly down, on the springing grass, gently waving in the mild September breeze- Thus slept that quiet clearing on the top of the hills, with the lazy shadows of the trees stretching across its bosom—all around it lay that slumbering volcano, soon to move into the midst

Octr 28 And make it tremble as if on the
 grasp of an earthquake." There is
 no lack of scenery for the most po-
 etical taste. Again in the attack on
Stoney point by Gen. Wayne, "It was
 now twilight; and the mild sum-
 mer evening with its cooling breeze
 stole over the water- the stars
 came out one by one on the sky
 and the tranquil river flowed by
 in majestic silence, and all was
sweet and peaceful. While nature
 was then reposing in beauty around
him, Wayne, with his strong soul
 wrought up to the task before him,
 stood in the gathering shades of
 evening, and gazed long and an-
 iously in the direction of the fort."

Strong }
 point }

Favor- }
 ite ex- }
 pressions }
 I might here add Mr Headleys favorite
 expressions, leveled bayonets, stirring
music from the drum, fife & bugle,
the measured tread of the battalions
& their charging shouts accompanying
the charges, amidst showers of can-
 non and musket shot.

Battle }
 near }
 Cam- }
 den }
 The night scene in the battle
 between Gates & Cornwallis 1780, fur-
 nishes Mr Headly a fertile source
 for the display of his romantic
 pen. The armies met "the midnight
 was suddenly illuminated by flashes of
 musketry, and in their transient light
 as far as the eye could see, the fields
 were filled with marching columns
 and squadrons of Cavalry. Flash
 followed flash in quick succession
 and those two armies looked like
 huge black monsters in the gloom
 spitting fire from their mouths on
 each other."

The order of battle is next sketched
 Gates in three columns! "Thus the
 two armies stood when warm August

Oct 28 morning broke over the scene. A death like calm rested on the same not a breath of air was abroad, the leaves hung motion less on their stems while a summer haze veiled the sky and gave the sun a blood shot, appear ance, as it rolled into view."

Night scene } for the [] & []

The battle again commenced. "In a moment the field was in an uproar—the artillery on both sides began to play furiously, while from swamp to swamp it was one flash and peal of musketry as the two armies advanced on each other. The smoke of battle would not rise in the dull air, but set tled down on the field, and fold ed heavily on the contending col umn."

Here is no lack of spirit nor scene ry. One almost hears the roar of the artillery, and the "strains of martial music struggling up through the sulphurous cloud." See page 36

29 Friday. M. fair, wind SW and last night very freezing; the day fair

accounts from Mexico }

We have accounts in the papers of the battles at the city of Mexico with lists of the killed and wounded officers, but nothing official from Gen Scott. The lists of officers are great from which we may infer that the loss of rank & file is so also. Among the killed we notice the name of Col. Ransome of Vermont, commander of one of the new regiments. Most of the officers of these corps left their homes under the chival rous notion- that they should recap mili tary glory. What a bubble! They are gener ally young men who have been charmed by the show of War. [] []!

Oct 30 Saturday M. fair, wind N.W., followed by a fair day; the air somewhat moderated

No of
ficial
from
Scott } The past week has brought us no of ficials from General Soctt. Does Mr Polk and his cabinet think it wise to keep them behind the curtain until Congress sits?—then to feel the public pulse and see how it beats in regard to more supplies of men and money!

Delinda est Carthago is now the motto of democracy; and the men of property must defray the cost.

31 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind NW but the sun out before noon, followed by a clear day, Wind changed to SW in PM very pleasant.

November

1 Monday. M. foggy, wind W; Sun out about noon, but most of the day cloudy.
 Fatal We hear of a sad accident on
 Rail the new rail road near Arthur
 road That occurred last
 accidents } An Engine and a number of cars, heavy loaded with iron, passing a new bridge over millers river, the bridge crushed with the weight and 5 men were killed and 8 or 9 wounded in the fall.
 Bridg When rail roads are carried through
 es on narrow vallies of winding streams
 Rail Road many bridges are necessary to avoid
 not al short turns, and preserve direct
 way safe lines; and this circumstance is
 unfavorable to such locations. In all
 cases of bridges, on real roads, they
 should be built in the strongest manner
 and of durable materials. Bridges
 are the weak parts of rail roads &
 become defective before we are aware
 of it, & fatal disaster are the consequence

Novr Tuesday m. foggy, wind N.;
 2
 Old the day ~~continued fair~~ fair and pleasant
 hunt air~ In my young days such
 ing weather invited to hunting excursions
 scenes } and with a practiced dog, we
 brought home packs of squirrels &
 partridges & other game. If the
 sport was inviting, it was attended
 with something repulsive to the
 informed mind, --the death of inno
 Re cent animals. In a more advanced
 marks } age, I must confess, that such de
 on struction of life ~~can~~ but ill deserved
 the name of sport. In a wild coun
 try where ferocious animals are
 found preying on the domestic herds
 the hunter may be said to act on the
 defensive, and his skill may be com
 mendable. But true it is, these ani
 mals follow the dictates of nature,
 and so do we in destroying them.
 Cruel } but humanity requires that in sending
 ty the stroke of death, we should do it with as
 to ani little suffering as possible.
 nals } No brute animal is in fault for
 to be the destructive disposition it possesses:
 avoid } and when those who are furnished
 ed with carnivorous teeth & claws, seize on their
 prey, they but follow the dictates of na
 ture. Man in a rude state is feeble
 in a contest with ferocious animals,
 but by his arts & contrivances, he becomes
 their superior; and the assaults of the lion
 the tiger & huge elephant, are repelled
 by the use of the weapons furnished by
 steel, gun powder and other materials
 which science has brought to his aid.
 3 Wednesday M fair, wind N.W. and
 the clear & very pleasant throughout.

Novr 4
 Headleys American Generals, continued from page 33.
 Headleys Generals } We might continue quotation from the author's scenery, with which he embellishes his battles, to the extent of partial imagination. But in his description of ground and order of battle, we sometimes find him inaccurate, and indeed confused. Any one acquainted with the battle fields and the movements at Bemis's height on 19th of September & the 7th of October 1777, will at once see his want of precision
 Battle at Be mus's height } The movements of Morgan & Dearborn in the first battle are incorrectly given, and seem to be confounded with those of the second; and the triumphant stride of Col. Cilley upon the captured field piece, belongs to the latter. "At noon the firing commenced. Morgan with his "light hore" and Major Dearborn with his light infantry rushed against the Canadians & Indians on the hills and routed them"~ This first attack was not made on the Canadians and Indians who were in Frazer's column, on the hills, but on the left flank guard of Burgoyne's column about 70 rods eastward of Freeman field.
 Corrected details } On the arrival of Burgoyne's column in the ravine of the field Morgan made a second attack on the British then formed in line in the wood in [] the field and was driven back with some loss. Burgoyne immediately advanced through the woods with 2 pairs of artillery & 3 regiments of infantry & formed a line of the north margin of the open field: after a short halt Burgoyne ordered the

Novr 4
 Move ments on Free man's field } twenty first and sixty second regiments composing the right of his line, to advance to the south margin of the field with two pieces of artillery, where they were met by Major Hill, with an advance [] of 300 men, and the firing commenced on the field, but was of short duration. about 3 oclock PM the auction was renewed by several regiments ordered forward by Gen. Gates. The Americans being reinforced with several other regiments, the action became General and continued until night.
 Mr Headley's account of the battle on Freeman's field after Gates' reinforcements came up, is not very wide from the truth. But in the whole battle of the day we hear nothing of the attack on Gen Frazer, posted on the heights to the westward of Freeman's field where the action continued till after night set in. But the part awarded to General Arnold must be entirely incorrect if any reliance be [] on Adjutant General Wilkinson & other officers who shared in the battle. But Mr Headly give no credit to General Wilkinson, nor to others who coincide with him
 Had the author given a precise description of the advance of Burgoyne's columns from his camp at Swords house to Freemans field, on the morning of the 19th of September, he would have avoided the embarrassments which perplex his readers, who are unfamiliar with strangers to the ground & the route of the columns.
 In the 2d battle (7th of October) Mr Headleys greatest error is, in confounding Arnolds attack on Lord Balcarres work, south of Free mans field, and that on the work of Breyman on the extreme right of the British, about 1/3 of a mile north of the former. It is however in correct when he says the Americans all returned to Gates camp at the close of the day. Part of Leonards Brigade, which stormed Brey man's work, held possession of it during the night.

Mistate ments of Arnolds move ments }
 2d Battle Octr 7th

Novr 5 Friday. m. fair, wind W
 day clear & pleasant as summer
 accounts from Mexico frequently mention the disorderly conduct of General Cushing's Massachusetts Regiment. The men are represented as mutinous, refractory, and every way disorderly. When the regiment was [] enlisted, I foresaw that this would be the character it would exhibit in the field. The men, in general, consist of that part of society, which knows no restraint, and filled with the wild notions of liberty and equality, and allowed the choice of their officers, they have no idea of the subordination requisite in a regular army. This sort of men, mixed with those of wild disciplined troops of the regular corps, may be reduced to order, but, when forming distinct corps, can fusion and disorder reign triumphant; and if, per chance, their officers are found to possess the requisite qualities, they are no more regarded by the men, than useless lumber. Such men if they can be filled with a spirit of chivalry, may fight a battle, but in camp they are liable to mutiny and every species of disorder, which a wild spirit generates. By this time the officers of the regiment may have learned that something besides ferocity is essential to constitute the soldier, and that military service, in the field is not the pastime they had anticipated. The character of the regiment might degrade that of Massachusetts, were it not known, that the men were enlisted from the [] of our cities, always ready for anarchy & spoil.

Mutonous & disorderly

Lesson 1. officers

6 Saturday. m. fair, wind N.W.;
 the day fair with scattering clouds, and the air cooler than we have had a few days past.

Novr. Sunday. M. fair, wind N; day
 7 fair & cloudy alternately & air cool
 Col Ransom who fell in one
 of the late battles near the city of Mexi
 co, if I am rightly informed, was
 from Vermont; an inhabitant of
 Norwich, and President of the Milita
 ry Institution in that state, first estab
 lished by Capt. Partridge. He is gen
 tleman having imbibed a taste for mili
 tary science, left home and friends to
 seek glory in the fields of Mexico, not
 however in defense of his country, but
 for the conquest of territory from a
 neighboring republic contending for her
 rights and national existence. But his
 race has been short; the bubble of
 military glory has burst, and his
 bones will rest in obscurity unnoticed
 by historians of after times. Did
 the unfortunate man look at the
justice of the war when he accepted
 his appointment, or recur to the prin
 ciples which activated our people at the
 commencement of our revolution? We
 fear not. Prompted by false notions
 of military prowess, he hazarded his life
 in a course, which every patriot and
 reflecting man, condemns as unjust, and
 unnecessary. His lamentable fate ought
 to be a lesson to others who seek renown
 at the canon mouth, regardless of the
 justice of the cause, which calls them to
 the field. In a defensive war, military
 service is deemed a duty, and the mor
 tally wounded here, may console himself
 in reflecting that his motives were
 pure, and his services rendered, called
 for by his country. But in an offen
sive one for conquest, the aspirant for
 fame, finds no consolation in reflecting
 on their motives which led him to the bloody
 combat, and the fatal wound adds
 poignancy to his inconsiderate rashness
 to obtain a bubble.

Novr Monday. M. cloudy, wind SW;
 8 day continued cloudy.
 This day our Constitution calls
 us to the polls to elect our Gover
 nor Lt. Governor Senators and representatives
 for the ensuing year; and it
 is a lamentable fact, that a few
 restless men are able to keep up
 a delusion among a portion of
 the people, which renders it ne
 cessary for the steady part of the
 community to attend the polls
 to counteract the mischief of
 their plans, and designs. Many
 of the dupes of these leaders are
 honest, and suppose these fellows
 pursuing a correct course, but
 will not examine for themselves
 They take up their notions from
 the democratic papers & and
 then continue their course from
 year to year, without knowing
 that they are indebted to their op
 ponents for the severity of their
 rights and liberty. Should they
 be successful at the ballot-boxes,
 a few years of democratic misrule of the state
 government, would cure their []
 and bring them back to their inter
 est and rational principles. But
 so long as they are a minority they
 will cling to their leaders, and re
 main blind to their utopian scheme

Fortunately for the common wealth
 the majority of the people have hither
 to been able to stem the current of
 political corruption [] out
 by its demagogues; and we trust the veto
 of the day will have and exercise on
 on the side of rational government.

}
 Elec.
 tion
 day

}
 Influ
 ence of
 dema
 gogues

}
 in blind
 ing the
 people

}
 The suc
 cess of the
 party
 would
 at length
 arm the
 frenzy

}
 Frimness
 of the Ma
 jority of
 the state

Novr 8	Votes cast in this town to day.	
Town }	George N. Briggs, for Governor	199
Votes }	John Reed, for Lt Governor	_____
	Charles Devens Senator	171
	Jonathan Blake Do.	196
	Samuel Willard Jr Representative	177
	<u>Democratic ticket</u>	
	Caleb Cushing, for Governor	151
	Henry Cushman, Lt. Governor	_____
	Charles Osgood Senator	151
	Whiting Griswold Do	153
	Horrace Williams Representative	162
	Another ticket, named the <u>liberty ticket</u>	
Liber ty tick et }	is supported by a few claiming to act in opposition to slavery. This party entertain no expectation of success, but their object evidently is to prevent an election of Governor & Lt Governor by either of the other parties; they claim to be opposed to democracy, but why they separate from the Whig party, who are in all respects as much opposed to slavery as themselves, is to me inexplicable. A more appropriate name for their ticket would be that of <u>insanity</u> , particularly <u>at this time</u> when united opposition to the Mexican war is the duty of all good men. Suppose Mr Sewall to [] [] should [] be elected what possible constitutional course could he pursue against slavery that Gov Briggs would oppose? This the <u>liberty party</u> well knew, and their persistence in their course excites [] suspicions of the purity of [] [] and it to be regretted that men hitherto held respectable should be found in the party.	
Its tenden cy evil }		

Novr 9 Tuesday. M. foggy, wind W;
last night some rain; the day
partially cloudy.

Ano
ther
Rail
road
acci
dent } The Springfield daily Repub
lican of Monday, gives a sad
account of an accident on the Boston
and Worcester Rail road, about two
from the former city, by which 6 men
were killed & 4 or 5 wounded. At
the place where the accident oc
curred was a curve where re
pairs had been making, though
imperfectly, and the train who
threw off the rails while un
der a speed of about 30 miles per
hour. Here after accidents are
mentioned in the same paper, on
other rail roads.

Re
marks } The frequent accidents occurring on
these roads, call for public consid
eration. Heavy trains in motion
at the rate of 30, or even 20 miles, an
hour, must always be liable to de
structive accidents; and in passing
curves especially of short radii
The centrifugal force inclining the
train to follow the tangent of the
curve, is often too strong to be
resisted. A speed of 20 miles an
hour, as is great, perhaps greater
than, any business requires: and
I think a speed less than that, will
ultimately be adopted as safer, as
well as sufficient for all the pur
poses of transportation.

Too great
spped
attempt
ed } But under the present rage for im
provement, men forget that the
laws of nature are unchangeable,
and prescribe limits, beyond, which
they cannot go. Even on a right lined
road the [] now urged, are un
safe; for with the heavy boards now
needed

Novr 9 heaped upon cars, and
 the prodigious force required to drag
 them, something will give way
 and distraction will ensue. Let
 us then remember that we walk
ing animals and cannot fly with
 out wings and feathers.

Dan ger of single tracts The present mode of constructing rail roads in single tracts will always be liable to fatal accidents from collisions under the most careful regulations and the present zeal for constructing them on routes which will not command ex
sive business, is ill placed. We now hear of projects for constructing them over and through mountains, even rivers and deep vallies, where they can accomoda only a few towns; and millions of dollars are considered but as small sums. Experience will teach us that none but those on routes between great Marts can be maintained. The idea of constructing them for the accommodation of a few interior towns is extremely unwise

Project of a R. Road to Troy Suppose 10 towns along a rail road, of 6 miles in each, should project a road 120000 dollars would be required for each; the whole 10 towns would require 1,200,000 dollars What 10 towns in the interior, can defray this cost! And "if mountains are to be tunneled and many large bridges constructed, a large sum must be added.

A fertile scheme The people of the western town in our county are awake to a rail road from South Deerfield to Troy. Two millions of dollars expended on the route would show but a beginning of the road. The project is well on the extreme, and [] prove an [].

Will probably prove []

Novr 10

Result
of the
Election}

Gov.
Briggs
re elect
ed

Genl
Cush
ing left
to pur
sue mili
tary
glory
in Mex
ico

His pop
ularity
unfixed

Wednesday. M fair, wind S.W.
and the day generally fair
until its close when it became
cloudy.

From the Springfield & Boston
papers, it appears that George N.
Briggs is re elected by the peo
ple, that no Socio-Senators
are chose, and that the house of
representatives is about the
same as last year. This result

is auspicious to the Liberty of the
state, and Massachusetts is
again freed from the misrule
and contamination of Jacobin
democracy; yet it is be lamet
ed that so large a portion of the

state is under that influence.

General Cushing may now con
tinue to seek glory in Mexico, by
the conquest of slave territory. Does
his acceptation of the democratic
nomination for Governor of Massachusetts
indicate a nostalgic diath
isis, to be relieved from his mili
tary employment in Mexico, to
repose in services less hazardous;
and had he this in view when
he accepted the command of his
regiment of patriots? Be

this as it may, the flippant
General's popularity will not be
fixed until he has suffered the smell
of gun power in storming a Mexican
battery and cut down some
hundreds of Mexicans fighting for
their rights and national existence.

Novr
 10
 Result
 of the
 election
 auspice
 ous }
 But though the result of the election
 has been auspicious, the reflecting pat
 riot will perceive that the dif
 fusion of political delusion in
 the state indicates a diseased diathesis
 that will ultimately prostrate
 republican liberty, at the
 feet of some bold despot, un
 less public virtue is able to
 check our present downward
 course. That a thinking man
 should be found in the state
 in favor of the present unjust
 war, is inexplicable. Yet no less
 than thousand voters are found
 in our state, ready to support a war
 with a neighboring nation, for
 the base purpose of conquest~
 11 Thursday. M. cloudy, wind W,
 the day became fair, with many
 floating clouds.
 Mr Sanford Howard, one of
 the Editors of the Albany Cultivator
 writes me proposing a plan
 to preserving the old Indian relic, or
 house, in this village, owned by Hen
 ry K. Hoyt. He proposes to pro
 cure the house or homelot on which
 it stands, by a subscription. I have
 this day replied to his letter ex
 pressing my views upon the subject.
 I should be glad to preserve the
 building, but doubt whether
 money could be raised for that
 purpose. It often happens
 that people are zealous to carry
 out plans, but when money is called for
 to carry them into effect their
 zeal dissipates & the plan fails. Mr

but
 omin
 ous of
 future
 evil }
 Letter
 from
 S. How
 ard,
 Albany }
 His
 plan
 to pre
 serve the
 old house }

Novr

11

His

Agri

cultur

al in

genius

Howard also put several queries to me in relation to our interval land and its cultivation to which I postponed answers for a want of data. He lately visited our town, and meadow, and was pleased with apparent fertility of the latter. A communication to the Cultivator, in the subject might be useful, but I feel an aversion to writing for the press. Mr Howard's plan for preserving the old house, is laudable, and indicates a generous mind.

12

Friday M. cloudy, wind W.
& the day generally fair

Election
reports
still fa
vorab

The reports of the election, as published in the papers, still continue favorable, and Governor Briggs is said to be reelected, by a majority, over all, if not far from 2000. Inaccuracies are commonly found in these loose returns, but generally they are not far from the truth. In looking over their reports, nothing is mere vexation than to see a party, calling themselves a Liberty party still persisting in obstructing the course a Salutary government, in this state. I will not say they are dishonest but I think it may be said they are far from being wise men: & a little reflection would teach them the danger of their course.

The

The
liberty
arty

Novr
12

Re
marks
on

Their
error

13

Forth
coming
work
on the
western
mounds

The existence of a democratic party, however inexplicable, is not more so than ~~those~~ that if this party; and the obvious pernicious tendency of this party is such, as to excite the suspicion of honorable men, as to the purity of their designs. We would not rashly condemn them, but we must say that it is not in our power to conceive of ~~them any excuse for the course singular~~ a plea which would present their case in the light of consistency. The great error of the party consists in this: While they repudiate slavery, they virtually aid and encourage the democratic party in deranging the government of the state, which, under a whig administration, is as ready to abolish slavery, in all parts of the Union, as themselves; but if possible, by constitutional means, and without a separation of the states by violence.

Saturday. M. partially cloudy, wind W. and the day nearly the same.

The work on the mounds &c of the west, noticed in page 18 as preparing for the press I am informed is nearly ready for the bookstores. From what I have learned of the work I think it will establish beyond a doubt

Novr
13
Facts
it will
proba
bly estab
lish

that long before the discovery of America by Columbus, a race of men inhabited this continent who passed many of the useful arts, far beyond those of the Indians since occupying the country, and that the Mexicans conquered by Cortis were a remnant of those ancient people. Indeed little is wanting, at this time to establish the above opinion, without the promised work.

Its
Import
ance

But as the foundation of this opinion may not be generally known a work embracing the principle facts and discoveries may be important.

Suppos
ed an
cient
com
merce

If then it shall appear from indubitable evidence that a vast people lived and flourished on this continent thousands years ago, it is highly probable that the fact was known to the old countries of Asia; and if the magnetic needle was known in China at so early a period as we are informed it was, it is probable that commerce was carried on across the pacific ocean through the chain of the Aleutian Islands, or in a higher latitude.

Explorer
where
found

Solomans three years voyages from the Red Sea to Ophir, [] [] in the Jewish histories,

Novr
13 have not been satisfactory
ly traced, nor the position of
Ophir fixed, whence has ships
brought home gold & precious stones
in such abundance. That this

May
be in
Mex
ico } goal region was in Mexico we
are not prepared to assert but that voy
ages might have been made from
the Red Sea, along the coast of Asia to
Japan, thence along through the Aleutian islands
to America and thence along the American
coast to Mexico, and back the same route,

Route
of the
ships
of Sol
omon } in three years, even without the
magnetic needle, does not appear im
possible; and if Mexico was then
inhabited by a people so advanced
in the arts, as ancient ruins indi
cate, a clue, to say the least, is offered
for tracing the voyages of Solomon.
That the quantity of gold and other
precious articles brought home, is exa
gerated, is probable.

Some writers & travelers have At
tempted to find Ophir in Africa,
but I am not aware that large
mines of the precious metals have
been discovered in that region. We
hear indeed of the gold dust there col
lected, but not in such abundance as
the voyages of Solomon indicate. Much
may be said on the subject, but per
haps nothing of certainty ascertained.
But if the forthcoming work shall
establish the fact, that a numerous
people, with a considerable advance in
the arts, once inhabited America, our
ancient history is incomplete.

14 Sunday. morn cloudy with rain,
wind N.; snow seen on the summits of the
mountains, but soon disappeared;
most of the day cloudy; air cold.

Novr
14

Flocks
of wild
geese
pass
south } yesterday flocks of wild geese were seen pushing south, which indicates that winter is about to commence.
The migration of the feathered tribes is a subject full of wonder
The tribes of Geese, ~~are~~ supposed to reside on the northern regions of America during the summer season, takes wing at the approach of winter and proceed, in wild regulated squadrons, to low latitudes, and perhaps south of the equator.
“Who calls the council, states the certain day,
Who forms the phalanx & who points the way?”¹

15 Monday. M. fair, wind W; the day partially cloudy.

Rail
roads
zeal
for } The rage for Rail-Roads still continues rise, and one from Green field, or some point near it is projected to Troy on the Hudson. The road is to carried up Deerfield river to Hoosac mountain through which a tunnel of four or five miles is to be bored to N Adams and there westward to Troy.
Heated zeal finds no difficulty in the task and three or four millions of dollars is but a small sum. Such projects may serve to amuse the people, and to give topics for speeches, resolutions at mass convention. Another rail road is to be constructed from Greenfield eastbound over Connecticut river

¹ From Alexander Pope's *Essay on Man*

Novr
15
Vari
ous
views
of the
subject } river to Grouts corner on
miller's river, to meet the Fitch
burg road. Our farmers we
trust, will at length learn
that their welfare depends more
on agriculture, economy and
industry, than on these roads~
A few on the great marts of the
country may be constructed and
maintained, but on ~~other~~ short
routes, they are a useless expense.
and of short duration.

a tun
nel of
4 or 5 } miles }

Were Hoosac mountain removed
from its position, a rail-road
from Greenfield to Troy would be fu
tile, since one already exists from
Boston to Albany under the patron
age of Massachusetts & State of
New-York. A tunnel 4 or 5 miles
through the mountain would
be attended with immense expenses
and many years would be required to
complete it. In any view of the
project I must say, no probability
exists its accomplishment.

It is said by the advocates of the Troy
route, that the business on the pre
sent routes road is already too
great to be accommodated, then a
double track will be laid and the
freight cars multiplied to the extent of the
exigencies. But if the alledged press of
business is now found on this road, it
is not likely to continue, after the rail road
now constructed from Lake Erie to the
Hudson, is completed.

The

Novr
15

In the present zeal for rail roads it would be unfortunate if rural routs should be constructed beyond the demands of business, since the result would be a failure of success in all; and the roads now under construction in Hampshire and Vermont may feel this want of support. Let us then avoid a hasty zeal which looks more to self interest than to public good.

16 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NW.
and fair day.

A Peace}
meeting}

A meeting is to be held at our town house this evening to prepare a remonstance to be presented to Congress against the Mexican War. The same course I am informed is taken in other towns in the State. People unacquainted with the corrupt principles of the present government of the United States, may suppose such a measure would have a useful effect. But a petition to put to death every Mexican found in arms, would be more likely to be adopted by the present ruling party than any pacific scheme. Mr. Polk, though

Remarks }
on the }
measure }

Mr Polks
position

the direct agent in the commencement of the war, may, at length, have become convinced that seizure of the northerly part of Mexico, is not so easy a task as he had supposed; yet placed as he is at the head of the wild democratic party, he will not dare to deviate from their plan and the same subserviency will induce him to continue the war until the whole of Mexico is conquered.

Novr
17

Dearth
of news
from Mex-
ico.

Probable
course
of Con-
gress.

Indi-
cated
by its
past
meas-
ures.

Wednesday M. fair, wind SW
and day fair, and pleasant.
There is now a dearth of news
from Mexico, and nothing offi-
cial is seen from Gen. Scott; but it
is not to be supposed that Mr Polk
is kept in the dark in respect
to the state of affairs in the invaded
country. at a time he is to give
a detail of his proceedings to Congress;
and what further measures
that body will adopt, remains a
question. I believe, however, that a
majority will be found in both houses
in favor of prosecuting the war, even
to the destruction of Mexico. Such
a course, in my view, could not
be more inconsistent than the sanctioning
of the war, which Mr. Polk com-
menced in defiance to the Consti-
tion. The plea that Gen. Taylor
had been improvidently plunged
into danger by the President, afford-
ed nothing for raising 50,000
volunteers, to enable [—]
him to make further depravations
on a country striving to main-
tain its existence. The war before
its commencement, will present a
dark chapter in the history of
the United States; and the civilized
world will read it as a specimen of our
sense of justice and right.

Novr
17

Bound
ary of
Texas
which
Congress
should
offer

Cuba
the next
object of
our grasp

Other
European
posses
sions
to re
ceive
the fra
ternal
hug

The only course of Congress that admits of a plea of right is to offer to Mexico the Rio Grand for the south & west boundary of Texas, and the restoring to her all places that have been captured by us south and west of that river. But our furious democracy would not be contented with this adjustment; for the object of the war was the occasion of all that part of Mexico north of a line of latitude drawn from the mouth of Rio Grand or some point not far above it; and if Mexico will not consent to this line, her whole nation must submit to our rapacity.

The next grasp will be the Island of Cuba; and in vain would Spain oppose its annexation to our Union if a process similar to that of Texas be adopted: an army of observation would soon effect the object, and how long the other West India islands will escape our grasp, is a question for the consideration of European nations. Nor are the British possessions in North America, long to be exempted from the fraternal hug, though at this time our southern patriots are less desirous of these annexation than of countries where the sun's rays fall more direct, giving vigor to the African race and sustaining their humane institution. But northern democracy is not

thus

Novr. thus limited in its views. Liber
 17 ty and equality must be extended
 to all countries, and where the
 people are unwilling to embrace
 it, they must be forced
 to vict armis.

18 Thursday M. fair, wind S.W.
 and the day, fair & cloudy alternately.
 The Springfield Daily of this day,
 says Gen Scotts dispatches have
 been received & published at Washington.
 The total loss in the late Battles 2703
 including 383 officers!
 An arrival from Tampico bring accounts
 of fatal sickness at that place. One
 company of the Illinois regiment has
 buried 20 men & its captain, within
 two months, and other companies
 could not turn out more than 15
 men fit for duty. The Louisiana regi-
 ment of volunteers, which mustered
 from 850 men to 900, could not
 bring into a regimental parade more
 than 200. This probably is but
 the beginning of sorrow.

Gen
 Scotts
 dispatches }
 is re-
 ceived }
 sick
 ness }
 at Tam-
 pico }

Vera Cruz date of the 5th instant,
 via N. Orleans, say, Gen. Scott has
 established posts on his line of oper-
 ation with that place, as follows:
 one at the National bridge of 750 men
 And then at Jalapa under Gen Cushing 1700
 and on other at Peubla, Gen. Lane 2000
 total 4450
 exclusive of the force at Vera Cruz
 Who of our democratic war-hawks sup-
 posed such a force necessary to protect a
 line of operation of about 200 miles

Mili-
 tary
 posts

Novr
18

Mili
tary re
marks } At the commencement of the War these profound judges of military operations, saw no impediments to the march of Gen. Taylor's force from the Rio Grand 400 or 500 miles to the "Halls of Montezuma" and seizing them by a coup de main subsistence for men and horse was out of the question, and arrangement for the passage of mountains, rivers, morasses, and pathless forests, with trains of artillery and baggage, were but musty rules of old warfare, wholly useless for wild volunteers under the stripes of the republican standard.

Demo
critic
nations } of war } Gen. Scotts shorter route from Vera Cruz to the Capital under a tropical sun, was deemed a positive, in which, if the commander adhered to old rules, it would subject him to the epithet of a "Book-general", as some of our se
garious members of Congress have dubbed him.

of
Books }
Generals } To introduce a new system, and abolish the worn castor rules of Generals Marlborough, Frederick and Washington a Lieutenant General was to be selected from our Rifle regions, and others painted into the rank of Generals, who had not been systemized by practice or in the West-point school, and thus Mexico was to be prostrated at a blow~

The
New
System } of the
war
Hawks } 19 Friday. M. cloudy with rain, Wind NW; day continued cloudy with moderate air

Novr Saturday. m. fair, wind
 20 NW, the day fair & cloudy.
 with moderate air
 21 Sunday. M. cloudy,
 wind S.W.; clear at noon, and
 P.M. mostly cloudy.
 A case of sickness in our
 family. Mrs. Osgood has
 Fam a touch of fever, which
 ily I hope will be slight, &
 sick our Doctor thinks a few
 ness } day will remove.
 }
 Letter A letter from David S. Hoyt
 from of the 16th of October at the City
 D.S. Hoyt of Mexico to his parent's has
 at Mex been received, in which he
 ico says he is well, and that he is
 well pleased with the Service.
 While I rejoice to hear of
 his welfare, I cannot avoid
 expressing regret that he is
 employed on so unworthy
 service as the conquest of
 a sister republic, striving for
 its independence & rights.
 The corps in which our young
 soldier serves (Hugers Seige train) has
 lost but few men in the late attacks
 Their duty, in general, being at
 long shot, they are less exposed
 than infantry, who rush into the
 thick of the fight, or melee (French)

Novr 22	<u>Monday</u> . M. fair, wind SW and day clear and air pleasant.
Second meet ing for choice of Repre sentative	A new meeting for the choice of representation to the General Court as held by our people this day. The vote at the stated meeting Novr 8 th stood, Whig 177 democratic 162; but the choice was defeated by the " <u>liberty party</u> " who <u>claim</u> to be pursuing a <u>wise course</u> .
Result of the Votes	Result of the votes this day: Samuel Willard Jr Whig 165 Horrace Williams democrat 155 All others 45
Reflec tions	Of course no choice. The meeting was <u>got up</u> by the whig party, but with what prospects of success, I could not devise. Was it believed that the <u>obstructing party</u> diminutive as it is, would relinquish their pernicious course and unite with the Whigs?
The obstruct ing party	This would be granting them more reflection & foresight than their prior course has indicated. The course of democracy is not difficult to explain, but that of this party composed of men who <u>claim</u> to be guided by pure principles is altogether inexplicable on con [] grounds. To

Novr
22

To pretend that they are more opposed to slavery than the majority of the Whigs, is idle: the only difference in the course of these parties is this, while the latter would abolish slavery by moral suasion and constitutional means, the former would effect it by violence, and the destruction of the constitution & the Union

From the democratic party no aid, in the cause of Abolition, can be expected; for with all their pretended love of liberty & equality, they feel no sympathy for the black man; and their leaders tell them to avoid giving offence to the their southern brethren.

23

Tuesday. M. cloudy & rainy, with wind N.E. and thick fog on the mountains; the day continued the same.

The Springfield Daily says, We understand that the house of Hoe Gray & Co. of Boston, extensive manufacturers of Railroad Iron, have suspended payment. The immediate cause of this event, is said to be the depreciation of Rail road stocks in which they have taken their pay for rails furnished to construct the roads. This precisely what I have anticipated

Depre
citation
of rail
road
stock

Novr
23

Con
sequen
ces
of

And I think I may safety predict that the stock of all the short routes in the interior of the country will continue to depreciate until the value becomes a negative quantity. The great error is in their multiplication beyond the demand. Yet projects for them are still rife, and ~~not~~ tunnels through mountains of 4 or 5 miles are considered no great impediments: Time will cure the frenzy, and show that none but those on great commercial routes can be maintained.

Hence we have reason to fear that some now in operation, or constructing, will sicken and die, before they reach the age of puberty.

24

Wednesday. M. cloudy foggy and wet, with S.W. wind and day rainy & warm

R. Road
acci
dent
at Whate
ly.

The engine on our rail road burst its flue, yesterday. At Whately, when the train was detained until another engine [—] was sent from Springfield.

Complex machinery exerting great power is always liable to accidents; and where fire and steam and the motive powers they sometimes bid defiance to our precautions

This day a new a drove

of

Novr 24 of Cattle passed our street
 I should judge from 200 to 300
 said to be owned by the celebrated
 farmer, Marsh of Shelburne of
 Vermont.
 Large drove }
 of Cattle }
 If Mr Marsh furnished this
 drove from his own stock, truly
 he may be ranked among
 the mammoth tribe of
 farmers.

From }
 Shel }
 burne }
 Vt. }
 Shelburne is in Crittenden
 County, & bounded north on
 Burlington, West on Lake Champlain & south on Charlotte
 and is said to be fertile
 tract of land, principally settled
 since the close of the war of
 the Revolution. Mr Marsh's
 farm is extensive & well cultivated; the Railroad now
 constructing from Burlington
 to Bellows Falls on the Connecticut, passes over the farm.

Ano }
 ther of }
 sheep }
 Yesterday a large drove of
 sheep past over village, belonging to the same farmer Marsh
 This Gentleman, I am informed, gained his property by industry, economy, and careful management. Notices of the progress of such men, may be useful lessons to those who attribute the failure of their plans to the frowns of fortune; as if evil genii presided over and dictated their destiny.

25 Thursday. M. cloudy, wind SW
 and day partially cloudy.

Novr 25	This day is selected by the Gov. of the state for a public thanks giving; and he reminds us of subjects which call for thanks the year past, and invokes blessings on those that are to come. In the proclamations issued on these occasions, we sometimes observe an innumer ation of items that savor too much of <u>dictation</u> . I would adopt the language of the en lightened Poet:
Remarks & Reflections	<p>“This day be bread and peace my lot, All else beneath the sun Thou know’st it best bestowed or not, And let they will be done: To the whose temple is all space, Whose alter, earth, sea skies, One chorus let all being raise! All nature’s incense rise!”²</p> <p>What reflecting mind can [] expressions of thanks and ad oration, to the great author of the Universe for its struc ture, adaptation and design and the unerring laws pro vided for its government</p>
26	<p><u>Friday</u>. M. fair, wind W. the day continued fair, but with many broken clouds.</p> <p>The <u>old house</u> in this village which escaped the conflagration of the French and Indians, 1704 having become inconvenient for a residence, the proprietor, Henry K Hoyt</p>
The old Indian house	

² Alexander Pope’s *Universal Prayer*.

Novr
26

Pro
ject
for pre
serving
it } finds it necessary to demolish
it and erect a new building on
the spot. A number of the peo
ple of the village, as well as others
abroad, being desirous of pre
serving the old relick, held a
meeting to consult on measures
for carrying out the object &
a Committee was appointed
to form a plan to be pursued.
It is proposed to move the old
building to a new site, and put
in repair to render it durable
The expence may be 400 or
500 dollars, which it is thought
will fit the building for a farm
by residence, retaining the old
structure and all of the Indian
marks as they now exist.

of dou
btful
success } The gentlemen in favor of
the project believe that a suffi
cient antiquarian taste may
be found in the public, to ac
complish the design, Of this
however, I have some doubts:
At this time the Railroad
spirit is so ripe that any attempt
to raise money for other purposes
of a public nature, may be in
effectual

27 Saturday m. cloudy, wind W
PM partially fair & clear at night.
Letter from my son and wife } A letter from Elizabeth, my sons wife
at Burlington, dated the 21st instant,
states that all are well. Some snow,
has whitened the ground, and the steam boats
are

Novr
27

Items
of the
Letter

and
remarks

old
military
grounds

are about to suspend their running. The Railroad she say goes quietly, but the refusal of the Vermont Legislature to grant a charter for a bridge over the outlet of the Lake at Rouses Point has caused some excitement, and may be unfavorable to the Ogdenburg road. Probably apprehensions were entertained that a road, would be projected from Rouse's point across the north part of the state, Boston without a connection with the central routes, now constructing to Burlington.

Arthur she says is much interested in the description I gave in my last letter, of the old military fields and operations in the country from Ticonderoga & Glens falls over which he recently passed on a trip to Saratoga Springs; and he says he should like to spend several days in examining the ground. He says, however, that most of the places I mentioned were known or found out to him, but probably very imperfectly, since few of the present generation know little of them If it be asked how I obtained my knowledge of them? I answer, from letters, journals, places and oral accounts of officers & soldiers who served in the campaigns; and partly, from repeated visits to the grounds for that purpose~

Novr
28 Sunday. m. fair, with many loose clouds and S.W. wind P.M. cloudy and snow flakes were seen to fall the air of course cold. We may now look for winter in a short time.

Winter Season }
near This season though rather dreary does not deny us enjoyment if we are prepared for it. A good stock of fuel, clothing, food and other necessaries, render us comfortable. The first article is becoming expensive, since the construction of our rail road, as it furnishes facilities to markets where the price is higher. But to the poor the winter season is sometimes distressing, particularly from a want of fuel if not other articles.

29 Monday. M. fair, wind N.W. the day clear, & air ~~moderate~~ cold One week from this day, Congress is to assemble at Washington City, and besides the usual business, the Mexican war will be a topic on which, it is expected, there will be a diversity of opinion; and whether the plans of Mr Polk will be sustained & the war continued until Mexico is completely conquered we cannot say. Every effort, no doubt will be made to convince the people that the war is just & necessary; and a portion of the community will be as ready to believe it so, as that the projectors of the war are persecuting an honest and patriotic course. The cost of the war; one might suppose, would create alarm; but so long as it can be carried on without direct taxes, the hood winked part, will spout huzza for its continuation

Session of Con gress }
near Conjec tures as to its course }

In ordering Gen. Taylor to advance from his unmolested position on the Nueces, across the disputed boundary to the Rio Grand, Mr Polk acted precisely in obedience to his party viz: to produce a war with Mexico for the purpose of conquering all that part of the Mexican territory lying north of the latitude of the mouth of the latter river, or some point near it. All of his movements since, clearly indicate this design, and sending Stevens agricultural Regiment round Cape Horn to California, fixed it beyond a doubt. But finding more opposition to his plan than he had anticipated, he found it necessary to attack Mexico at a more southerly point. capture the City of Mexico and then offer terms of peace upon the conditions first projected. But finding that the war would incur an enormous debt, and the Mexicans determine on further opposition, he may be disposed to draw back his proposed line of demarcation; but he will not dare to fix it upon the Rio Grand, without the consent of his party Congress, it is hoped, will open their eyes and frustrate his nefarious plan, as just designed.

Novr
29

First
plan
of Mr
Polk &
his par
ty

Subse
quent
measures

Disap
point
ment

Duty
of Con
gress

Novr
30

Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE
and air very cold: the day
clear and cold; Wind changed to SW

Sick
ness
in the
Army
at Mex
ico

The Springfield Daily has the following from the New Orleans Delta
The names of 508 soldiers who died
in the hospital at Perote, Mexico
between June 1 and October 30. Twenty
of them were members of the
New England regiment. After
the close of the war, we shall no
doubt, see horrible accounts of
losses by sickness in the army in all parts of the
Country, probably much beyond the
losses in battle. To publish them at
this time, would deter young men

Policy
of with
holding
accounts
of sick
ness

from enlisting, who know nothing
of the effects of a hot climate. If
one half of the men employed
on that service, should leave their
bones to pave the fields of Mexico,
it would be no uncommon a
result. Ignorant of this fatality, young
men enlist with no thought but
of military glory, and too late find
their mistake. Thus it is found

False
notions
of mili
tary glory

that a certain portion of the young
in all countries, especially after a period
of 20 or 30 years, are always ready
to be set up as targets for bullets or victims of
disease, for the pittance of a soldiers
pay. in a war of defence the
delusion may be cherished; but in
one of offence and destruction of
a neighboring nation, striving for its
rights & liberty, it is to be regretted
that so many are working ready for elev
ation, totally regardless of right and
justice; or sympathy for the suffer
ing inhabitants.

Decem
ber 1

Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind SW, air cold. The day con tinued cloudy & cold, and I think we shall soon have a fall of snow, indicated by the low temperature of the air for sev eral preceding days.

Of the
present
state
of England

In the Springfield Daily of yesterday the Editor has given us some remarks & reflections on the present condition of Great Britain, which it must be confessed bear a gloomy aspect. With a national debt of more than Eight hundred mil lions of pounds sterling, he says

Her
nation
al Debt

"England is poorly situated to encounter such storms as are now breaking upon him."

England has heretofore been the great work shop of the world and all nations in their rise from a rude state, have felt the blessings of her arts, sources, and industry. If she is now to fall from her elevation the nations now rising to importance, though less dependent on her than in their rude state, will feel the unfortunate result. To suppose her national debt will ever be paid is idle.

But so long as she can pay the interest of the debt & the expences of his government, she may continue a nation. In the days of William Pitt the plan of a sinking fund was proposed, and adopted by Parliament

but

Mr Pitts
sinking
fund

Decr
1
Fail
ure
of

but from some cause it failed of the expected effect, whether from mismanagement or the improbability of the plan we are not able to decide; for it involves questions of the most intricate nature, foreign to our studies, and such as require a life of careful investigation.

In the appendix of Gould's abridgement of Alison's History of Europe from the commencement of the

Alison
on the
finance
of England

French Revolution to 1815, we find an account of the British finances which affords important information. It is taken from Alison's 41st Chapter, and given in his own words.

In treating upon Mr. Pitt's plan for a sinking fund Mr Alison expresses a favorable opinion, and seems to think that had it been carried out in full, it would have relieved the Nation from an embarrassment which now threatens its destruction. He closes his Chapter with the following painful prediction. "In two centuries the name of England may be extinct, or survive only under the standing of ancient renown; but 150 millions of men in N. America will be speaking its language, reading its authors glorifying its descent. Nations like individuals were not destined to immortality; in their virtue, equally as their vices, their grandeur do their weakness, they bear in their bosoms the seeds of mortality; but in the passions which elevate them to greatness, equally as those which hasten their decay, is to be discerned the increasing operation of these principles at once of conviction and resurrection which are continued in humanity and which, universal in community as in single men, compensate the necessary decline of nations by the vital fire which has given our understanding youth to the human race." Mr Misra is an Englishman, versed in her affairs.

Decr Thursday M cloudy wind SW
2 and rainy through the day:
air moderate.

The weath }
er After the 3 or 4 cold days just
 past a rain was unlooked for
But such changes are some
times seen even in the coldest
winter winter weather & to ac
count for which is not a little
difficult. A flow of the warm
air from the south, against the
cold dense air of the north wind
seem to be contrary to hydrostatic
laws. Hence we should apri
ori conclude that no rains
would occur in high latitudes
in the winter season, which is
contrary to facts. In the course of
my journals, I have repeatedly touched
upon this subject, and now find
nothing new to advance. The gyratory
motion of the atmosphere between
the tropical regions & the poles is
however, strengthened by observations.

Remarks }
on Friday M. cloudy & rainy; wind
3 NE; the day continued the same
This continued rain has swelled
our river and flowed the low
lands adjacent to it. The former
times two or three days of the fall
rains often produced floods.
Which covered the principal part
of our meadow, and sometimes
drowned the cattle feeding it. Our
rains are now less violent, and floods
have become rare. I

Rise }
of the }
River }

Decr
3 I have known instances of high floods before the crop of Indian corn was gathered, which occasioned a considerable loss of that article, as well as of hay cut late in the season

Instances of high floods }
Diminution of the waters of rivers }
4 The annual quantity rain which falls in our latitude I believe lessens as the country is cleared of its woods. The case may not be obvious, but the fact seems to be established, as is another viz: that rivers lessen their quantity of water as the adjacent forests are cleared away. I think this evaporation has a hand in this process as also, in the great change of our summer showers within 40 or 50 years, observable by all who have carefully noticed their phenomena.

Saturday. M. fair, wind NW.
and the day was pleasant
From the Springfield Daily of yesterday. "The following Resolutions were offered and disposed of in the South Carolina House of Representatives on the 25th of November.
Resolved, that His Excellency, the Governor be requested to return without comment to the Governors of Connecticut and Rhode Island the resolutions of those states, in relation to the Wilmont Proviso which was agreed to unanimously, and referred to the committee on federal relations.
Mr Gist submitted the following resolution
Resolved. That the war now waged against the republic of Mexico is just and

South Carolina Resolution }

Decr
4

That state a non descript } and proper, and that South Carolina will sustain it with all the means in her power. It was agreed to and ordered to be printed.” South Carolina is really a non descript in her political course While most other slave states are ready to present some excuse for sustaining slavery, she with audacity, in consistent with a people claiming common civility refuses even a reply to her sister States. If she is desirous to retain a particle of respect from the members of the national family, she must abandon her insulting course and return to the common rules of civility. It is time for her to recollect that a state oligarchy is not to govern the people of other states.

Her ap proba tion of the war easily ex plained } in which republican principles are the basis of liberty. Her approbation of the war is easily explained, when her opposition to the Wilmont Proviso is seen. “The war is just and proper!” Aye! it is for the conquest of territory to enable them to extend & perpetuate slavery and the east is a consideration of minor importance. If under her delusion, the Union of the states can be maintained, then wise men have misjudged.

Decr
4
 Caution }
 for her }

Let her return to the common principles of politeness, or consent to be held as an outcast in the federal compact. We wish her to return to common sense, and thereby avoid the degradation which awaits him. If however, she persists in her obstinacy and the other states and Congress submit to her audacity, we may bid farewell to Constitution and liberties of our country.

Let it not be understood that we would not unconstitutionally interfere with southern slavery as it now exists, but only restrains its extension to territory conquered by our Armies which is the extent of the Wilmont Proviso. But if the slave states will not consent to this reasonable plan, the consequence may be fatal to our Union. May the wisdom of our patriots save us from the horrors of [] {—} conflict, in which the passions of men feel no restraint and sympathy gives way to relentless ferocity.

But in such a conflict, if the people of the free states are firmly united, and the slaves roused to a sense of their wrongs, the result would not be doubtful; yet alas! public virtue has too feeble a hold on a portion of community to warrant a successful struggle, even with a weak enemy; and it sometimes happens that injustice & ferocity succeed against justice & virtue. The Mexican war will probably show another instance of this kind.

Design }
 of the
 Wilmont
 Proviso }

Decr Sunday M cloudy, wind NW
 5 clouds continued through the day
 Snow } and cold air. About 3 PM
 fell a snow commenced and con-
 tinued moderately into evening
 covering the ground with a light
 coat of about an inch
 6 Monday. M cloudy wind N.
 soon fair, and so continued
 until night & thus became cloudy
 This day Congress commences
 Session } its annual session at the City
 of Congress } of Washington, and of course
 President } Mr. Polk will present his mes-
 Polk's } sage on budgit relating to his
 Message } war with Mexico; and who
 pend } those he will again assert that the
 ing Mexicans commenced the war
 by invading our territory, is to
 be seen. He may have bared
 that truth is not to be tam-
 pered with, in a national game
 of this magnitude, and also
 that to run lines of demarca-
 tion at his pleasure, is not so
 small a task as he anticipated.
 He will tell us a long tale of
 his glorious virtues; and though
 he has lost many of his troops by
 battles & sickness, he may offer,
 as consolation, that the Mexi-
 cans have lost a greater number.
 But what is human life when
 put in competition with enlargement

of

Decr 6 of territory, and the spread of democratic principles?

Mr Walker } Mr Walker's Report of the treasury and the call for further loans, may create some alarm; but millions of dollars is but a paltry sum when expended in the conquest of a neighboring country.

Wilmot } Proviso } But the Wilmont proviso!—What is to be done with this anti-slavery scheme South Carolina [] to threaten nullification, if Congress pass laws unfavorable to her "peculiar institution" and extension of slavery: and is this refractory state to govern the Union and nullify the federal Constitution! Congress it is hoped, will pursue a steady constitutional course, and if that state [] shall place herself in opposition to the laws, let her feel the consequence. Such a course will, sooner or later, be necessary to try the strength of the laws and Constitution. What will be the course of Congress in relation to the war "we shall probably soon learn. With the assembled wisdom of the nation, we would hope it may be a just one. The session, it is supposed, will be stronger and many of the combustible materials which compose that body, sat on fire. We wait patiently for the development of Mr Polk's plan of further operations in Mexico, not doubting that it will be a very wise one~

Extract } of a Letter } A Letter from Washington of the 23d ult. has the following.
"We have men of courage in council as well as in war, men who can neither be cajoled, flattered, reproached, threatened nor

Decr
6
from Wash
ington }
nor bribed into silence before enquiry, however supposed. Thank God there are such men, not a few, in the Congress about to assemble; and the real character and merits of the contest will be investigated most searchingly and fearlessly; and a void will go forth- a void of wisdom, truth and power—which it is to be hoped will awake the nation from its delusive drain of glory to a just sense of its honor, its interest and its duty.”

Remarks } on
That we have in Congress, men such as the writer describes, I have the satisfaction to believe; but that they will be able to send forth a voice that shall rouse the people from their delusive dream, in which they repose, I have no sanguine expectations.

Notions } of the peo
ple }
From the case with which demagogues diffuse their poison, the people are led to distrust talents as aristocratic & eminent men are repudiated as enemies to equal liberty than which a more pernicious political error can not exist; and such is the extent of their error, at this time.

Talents } repudi
ated }
that an attempt to elect a Webster or a Clay to the Presidency, will be fruitless. No! some obscure individual, more subservient to party must be selected When the people of a republic are thus disposed, they soon sink to

Decr 6 to a low point in the political scale, and lose their respectability.

The Washington administration } Under the administration of Washington, aided by his co-patriots, the United States steadily rose towards a high niche in the temple of fame; but since that period, our political machine, with a few exceptions, has described an inclined plane, with accelerated velocity, to a low level, from which it will be impossible to raise it, without the aide of more public virtue and national honor, than we now possess.

Our political descent } But let us not despair: a time may arrive when virtue, talents and honor, will again be appreciated and the low arts of the demagogue repudiated; though it must be acknowledged, this is rather an up-hill course, not often seen where corruption has gained an ascendancy.

A better prospect } 7 Tuesday M. fair, wind S.W.; the day clear and pleasant.

A new work } A young gentleman called at my room with the Pictorial History of America by S.G. Goodrich of Hartford, including many engravings. 1 Vol 8 vo—price \$3.50 The work is well printed and handsomely bound, & no doubt contains much interesting & useful matter, But want of loose coin

Decr
7
by Mr
Goodrich }
forbid a purchase; and I regret
that I am not able to keep pari
passu, with the new publication
issuing from the press. Mr Goodrich
work may not contain much that
is new to a thorough historian; but
as it is a condensation of many other
works, it is, probably, a useful vol.
particularly for families~

Letters }
to my }
Daugh }
ter }
Mailed a letter to my Daughter at Chicopee Falls, who
complains of the infrequency of my correspondence. Far
be from me an apathy that
would cause me to neglect
my friends, or to feel indifferent to their welfare & happiness. In a friendly correspondence the French naivte is requisite of which I do not profess much skill. Habituuated to scientific research historical facts, and deductions my letters become stiff and lack the easy practical flow which pleases the imagination of the beau monde. In this play full mode of writing, delicately instructed females often excel and bear away the wrath from the abstract philosopher.

8
Wednesday. M. fair, wind SW;
the day clear & pleasant. Snow gone.
Died yesterday, Mary, wife of William Briggs, of this village of a consumption. She and her husband had been my housekeepers for some time which she was in rather a feeble state, and they were attentive to my wants.
Last evening I received a letter from my kinsman

Death }
of Mary }
Briggs }
} of this village of a consumption. She and her husband had been my housekeepers for some time which she was in rather a feeble state, and they were attentive to my wants.

Decr kinsman, David S Hoyt, dated
 8 at the City of Mexico, October 31st 1847,
 Letter a soldier in Gen. Scotts army in the
 from seige tram corps, numbering about
 D.S. Hoyt 63 men, forming what may be called
 in Mexi an Artifice corps. whose principal
 co employment is repairing the various
 munitions of war, and the implements
 of war. He says "we have in the Com
 pany, Carpenters, Blacksmiths Gun
 smiths, Painters &c. who are employ
 ed ten hours each day. and that he
 keeps a journal. He says the climate is
 delightful; the thermometer on the 1st
 of October 79° on the 2d 74° on the 3d
 74° Details of several battles are given
 in which many men were lost. On
 the 8th of September, Gen. Worth attacked
 the Mexicans at Chapultipuc with
 500 men who were reduced to one
half, in half an hour and he compelled
 to give ground; but reinforcements com
 ing up on the right & left, he cleared the
 field in about 2 hours, losing 666 men
 out of 2200 engaged—the Mexicans stat
 ed at 16000. By another mail
 he thinks he can send me something
 interesting~
 In most of the attacks of our troops in
 this war, it appears to me a rashness has
 been displayed which regular experienced
 troops would have avoided by more
 cautious movements, dictated by art, and
 at less expense of lives. But our new fledged
 commands scorn to think that a chivalrous
 spirit is all that is required in the field, and that
 to carry fortified places, the art of the En
 gineer is useless. Raw troops sometime per
 form wonders, but they often [] & fail where
 veterans succeed: at the best they are uncertain troops

Decr
 8 A letter from my son Arthur at
 Letter } Burlington of the 3d instant, received this
 from day, informs me that the Railroad
 son Ar is progressing regularly—that his
 thur line of 52 miles is a beautiful one—
 } the grading will be done next year
 and a part put in operation. that
 all are well except little Charles,
 and that they enjoy themselves well.
 steam boats, he says, have stopped run
 ning and we shall soon be land locked'
 Abstra } thinks of a visit to Deerfield in
 ct of the winter--, but is doubtful about
 it. He mentions the contest in
 the Legislature of Vermont, concerning
 building the Lake at Rous's Point
 which he says was a warm battle
 in which Judge Fallett President of the
 Board, took a part, says we have
 a good board of Directors, three of whom
 from Boston, lately viewed the
 work, and were pleased with it.
 9 Thursday. M. cloudy—wind SW
 and the day generally the same.
 Speak } We learn from the papers, that the
 er of Congress House of Representatives has elect
 the House ed Robt. Winthrop of Massachusetts
 of Repre } for its speaker, by a small ma
 sentatives jority. Mr Winthrop is a Whig mem
 in Con } ber and reputed to be a gentleman
 gress of good political acquirements, and
 probably will discharge his duties
 to the satisfaction of the true friend
 of our country. But notwithstanding
 this favorable symptom, I am not with
 out apprehensions that the House will
 lack that firmness of action, now

Decr
 9
 Charms
 of mili
 tary glo
 ry }
 Mexi
 co not
 conquered }
 Defeat
 of his
 forces }
 Blun
 der of
 Congress }

necessary to relieve us from
 the wrong position in which we have
 been placed, by Mr Polk and
 his party. Such are the charms
 of what is called military glory
 that among the whigs, some will
 be carried away by the bubble
 in which case terms of peace, just
 and honorable to Mexico, may be
 refused. She is not conquered
 but so crippled that further de
 fence must be feeble. Had she
 money & other resources, with an
 army of veteran infantry and
artillery, relying less on her Cavalry
 she might have taught us that conquest
 is still at a distance. But unlike
 most other nations, she seems not
 to increase in prowess by military
 experience; when a nation is
 unable to defend herself against a
 neighboring power, it may at once sur
 ender its independence, and ask
 for the privilege of Vassalage.
 In granting money & men to Mr Polk,
 to wage an aggressive war, Congress com
 mitted an egregious blunder, and it
 is found that they may not
 correct it, at this time.
 If Mr Polk's course be considered as
 a precedent, we may be plunged into
 war, on every national dispute
 The [] wars in the North-east
 boundary dispute, would have thrust
 us into war with Great Britain,
 for a useless piece of land.

Decr 9 In the Oregon dispute Mr Polk might have played the same game but he and his supporters thought land speculation in Mexico would be more eligible and profitable

10 Friday M. cloudy, wind NW and the day cloudy throughout.

Mr. Polk's message

Presi
dents
message } I have this day perused this extended document, a great portion of which is occupied with the Mexican war; and we regret to see him still persisting in the demonstrated falsehood, that Mexico commenced the war by invading our territory. Setting out with this gross assertion, he attempts to show that the whole of his subsequent movements dictated by necessity, and that the war, on our part, is really de
fensive. Some of the friends of Mr Polk have asserted that in his private character he adhered to moral obligations, and was inoffensive. Granting this, it is to be regretted that he is so biased by his party as to risk his political character in an assertion so obviously untrue. His order to Gen. Taylor to advance from his unmolested position on the Nueces across the disputed territory to the Rio

The
false
hood
reiter
ated }
at the
risk of
moral
rectitude }

Decr
 10

Object
 of the
 war
 clear

Broach
 ed by
 Mr. Mon
 roe

Anec
 dot of
 the French
 man
 & his
 poker

Grande proves beyond dispute, his intention to wage war with Mexico, for the purpose of obtaining possession of the country between Texas and the pacific ocean, as prescribed in his offices to the Mexican government in the late attempt to negotiate through Mr Trist. If a particle of doubt existed respecting his plan of obtaining possession of North California & new Mexico, it is removed by the claims he presents in his present message, to that territory: and he does not at tempt to disguise this plan, which he admits was broached so long ago as Mr Monroes Administration and reiterated by himself, in his first annual message. But the cessation of this wide territory, so convenient for annexation to United States, is not all which his capacity demands. The Mexicans for opposing his encroachments, must pay an in demity for the cost & trouble they have occasioned him, by resistance. The scheme of Mr Polk reminds me of the anecdote of the Frenchman and his heated poker, given (if I am not mistaken) by Dr. Franklin. The French man being denied an opportunity to try his experiment on an Englishman by threading his hot iron into a delicate part of the body, indignantly replied, "Say you will then pay me for the trouble of heating the poker". Mr Polk's message

Decr
10 message cloudy indicates disappointment in his war, and the question is how to get rid of it? But he seems to be determined to demand pay for heating the poker. The document shows many weak points, which it is believed will not escape the notice of the friends of the country, both in and out of Congress.

11 Saturday M cloudy, wind SW and air warm PM broken clouds, & wind variable to W and N.

Mr Polks
message } again }

His Olive } Branch }

A Glance } at it }

Further notice of Mr Polk's Message
As a proof of his tender feelings towards the offending Mexicans, and his disinterestedness, our President professes to hold out the olive-branch. He says, "Whilst our armies advanced from victory to victory, from the commencement of the war, it has always been with the olive branch of peace in their hands; and it has been in the power of Mexico, at every step to arrest hostilities by accepting it: But let us take a glance at this peaceful olive-branch. The Commissioner of the United States was authorized to agree to the establishment of the Rio Grand as the boundary from its entrance into the Gulf to its intersection with the southern boundary of New Mexico, in N. Lat. about 32° , and to obtain a cession to the U. States of the Provinces of New Mexico and the Californias, and the privilege

Decr
11
Bound
ary
proposed } of the right of way across isthmus
of Tehuantepec. The boundary of the
Rio Grand and the cession to the U.
States, of New Mexico and upper
California constituted an ultimatum
which our Commissioner was under
no circumstances to yield"
"That it might be manifest not only
to Mexico, but to all other Nations
that the U. States were not disposed
to take advantage of a feeble power
by insisting upon wresting from his
guard and held under our mili
tary occupation, but were willing
to conclude a treaty in a spirit of
liberality, our Commissioner was au
thorized to stipulate for the restor
ation to Mexico of all other conquests

Softening
of the
demand } "As the territory to be required by
the boundary proposed might be es
timated to be of greater value than a fair
equivalent for our just demands, our
Commissioner was authorized to stipu
late for the payment of such additions
al [] consideration as was deem
ed reasonable."

This is Mr Polks olive branch held out
to the Mexicans; and truly its branch
es spread over a considerable territory
which Mr. Munro had in view, and
Mr Polk attempted to grasp, when he
ordered Gen Taylor to advance from the
Nueces to the Rio Grand. But the tender
hearted President assures us, "It has ever
been our cherished policy to cultivate
peace and good will with all nations;
and this policy has been steadily pursued
by me." When he ordered Gen Taylors
force from Corpus Christie to the Rio Grand
then to construct fortifications, did he have
in view the "good will" of Mexico, and hold
but the olive Branch? Disguise the motive as
as he was, the design is obvious.

Mr Polk
preten
sions }
Elucia
dated }

Decr 12 Mild ness of the season	and the day generally cloudy. The ground is now entirely free from snow, and I believe from frost and the weather moderate. A continuance of such weather would be agreeable to my feelings but perhaps less beneficial to the vegetable kingdom than ordinary winter snows. and frosts. For an investigation of this subject see 1 st chap, Book 1 of Whowell's <u>Astro nomy and General Physics</u> page 28.
13	<u>Monday.</u> M. cloudy, wind S.W., and day cloudy throughout. rain last night.
Call of Mrs. Arms of Glens Falls	Mrs Cynthia Arms of Glens Falls, widow of the late Josiah S. Arms, called on me this day. She says this village in creases in business & is great place for trade. She informs me that the the frame work which was erected around my Daughters Grave, in the cemetery of that place, is gone to decay, and that nothing marks the spot.
State of my Daugh ters Grave at that place	I think of proposing to my son, now at Burlington, the erection of a suit able monuments to preserve the spot. Monuments of this kind are generally erected by connections and afford a soothing satisfaction on visiting the last homes of dear friends. Mrs. Arms offers her aid in seeing the stones placed. A stone cutter works in the village, and she thinks will provide a pair of stones at a reasonable price say 15 dollars.
A mon ument proposed	"Under the expectation that my Daughter's hu David F Dickinson would procure a monument the failure is to be attributed.

Decr
 14
 Letter }
 to my
 Son }

 Glens }
 Falls }

 My
 recon
 naissan
 ces of
 the old
 battle
 fields }

 Minute
 ness of
 my ex
 amina
 tions }

Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind NE
 and day cloudy & foggy. Some rain
 Wrote a letter to son Arthur at
 Burlington Vt., with proposals for
 erecting grave stones at my Daughters
 grave at Glens Falls, the frame
 work first erected, having gone to decay.
 She died at that place January 14th
 1817, aged nearly 23 years Was wife of Da
 vid F. Dickinson Esqr. of that place;
 born May 29th 1794. Time eradi
 cates the poignancy, but not the re
 membrance of deceased friends.
 In the spring succeeding the death
 of my Daughter, I visited Glens Falls
 with my wife and Mrs. (Col.) Dick
 inson, the mother of Fanny's husband,
 and became acquainted with several
 Gentlemen of the place; and to di
 vert my mind from depressing grief
 visited Lake George and looked over
 the old battle grounds of the war of
 1755, in which many people of Mass
 achussetts lost their lives, and their
 bones rest in obscurity. Since which
 I have made frequent visits to the
 same memorable grounds, and
 with the aid of old Letters, journals
 of officers & soldiers, and verbal ac
 counts I have since collected, have become
 extensively acquainted with (as I believe)
 all the military operations in that
 section of country, both of the war
 of 1755 and that our revolution. So
 minute has been my reconnaissances
 that I can, from recollection, sketch
 with considerable exactness, all the
 fields where battles & skirmishes
 have occurred on that section of coun
 try, including those about Lake George
 and Ticonderoga. Such researches
 may be deemed, by the busy world as

Decr
14

Reflec
tions } a useless employment; but I
cannot but agree with Dr. John
son when he said "Far be from
me or my friends, such frigid philosophy
as may conduct us, indifferent and un-
moved, over any ground that has been
dignified by wisdom, bravery, or
virtue. That man is little to be []
ed whose patriotism would not
grow warmer among the ruins
of Iona." Imbued with these senti-
ments, this American Flanders
never ceases to command my
attention, and the cemetery of
Glens Falls, my poignant grief.
Old as I am, another visit to
these grounds, would be
highly interesting. On my last
with Mr L.B. Lincoln, preceptor
of our Academy, 1840, I found a
young race at the Falls, who
knew little of the ~~of the~~ old
military operations in that part
of the country, and who partook
little of the sentiments of Dr. John
son.

15 Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind SW.
PM. mostly fair with mild air

Death of old
acquaint-
ances } We hear of the death of Joseph
Lyman Esqr of Northampton aged
80, and also of that of Chancellor
Kent of New York City aged 85
two firm pillars in our nation-
al edifice, Mr Lyman, had sus-
tained important stations in the
state, and was a member of
the Hartford Connection; so
much

Decr
15 much vituperative by our
Brief } Democrats. Chancellor Kent
notice } was celebrated for his Legal
of knowledge, wrote Commentaries
} on the laws, which are held
in high estimation. I had the
pleasure of an acquaintance with
both of Gentlemen. Being at
Albany, I met the Chancellor
at a Boostore, and he invited
me to visit his office, then in
that City, to view his library, which
was very extensive & composed of
rare works. With his great prowess
of mind, he possessed an urbanity, not
always found in men of his cast,
and could turn his attention to
any subject of importance. I thought
him an extraordinary man.
Accidentally meeting him at North
field, in this county, After his age
of 60, prohibited his holding the of
fice of Chancellor, a provision in the
Constitution of his state, I rallied him
on his inability to discharge the duties
of his late office. He pleasantly replied,
“My constitution is now better than
that of the state of New-York”

16 Thursday. M. cloudy wind N.
 and the day partially fair.
 We hear of no important move
 ments in Congress, up to this time,
 and with a loco foco Senate we
 look for no important corrections
 of Mr. Polk’s unconstitutional studies
 Delinda est Carthago, will still be
 the motto of democracy, and Mexico
 must cease to exist as an independent
 nation for the plain reaason the she
 cannot defend himself against our rapa
 city

Decr
 17 Friday M. cloudy, rainy, a
 little snow last night, whit
 ing the ground, and wind N
 the day cloudy & some rain
 Our papers given an account
 of the death of a Dr. Wainwright
 of the city of N. York, from
 the bite of a Rattlesnake.
 A friend in Alabama sent
 to Dr. Wainwright, a Box
 of rare plants, inclosing, also
 a live rattle snake of 6 feet. To
 exhibit the reptile to his friends.
 The Dr took the Box to a public
 house, in the evening, and knocking
 off the top of the box, the snake
 was let loose upon the barron
 floor, when he threw himself into
 a coil and seemed to be inclined
 to remain quiet. He was teased
 with a stick without betraying
 much irritation. After having
 been viewed some time, the Dr
 attempted to return the snake in
 to the box, by seizing him with ~~the~~ his na
 ked hand, on which the reptile
 struck his fangs into the Dr's hand be
 tween two fingers. To prevent the
 spread of the poison, the flesh about
 the wound was cut away. The Dr
 then returned to his house, where
 medicinal & surgical aid was called,
 and energetic measures taken to pre
 vent the ~~the~~ spread of the poison, but
 with no effect; the intire arm scold
 ed most fearfully, and the virus extend
 to the body, and death ensued about
 half an hour after midnight. The

Death }
 from
 the bite
 of a Rattle
 Snake }
 Partic
 ulars }
 of
 The Dr }
 incautious }
 Remi
 dies in
 effectual }

Decr
17 The body after death, presented the usual appearance of disease from the bite of these reptiles, it being frightfully swollen and mottled. The medical applications are not described in the account.

Dr Thachers successful treatment in a similar case } In Dr. James Thachers Journal of our Revolutionary War, we find an account of a successful treatment of a similar bite—of a ratle snank, at Ticonderoga, in Sept 1776. A soldier foolishly seized the snake by the tail, and the reptile threw his head back and struck his fangs into the man's hand. In a few minutes a swelling pain, and it was not more than half an hour, when his whole arm to his shoulder, was swollen to twice its natural size, and the skin became of a deep orange color. The body on one side, soon became affected in a similar manner and a nausea at his stomach ensued. Dr Thacher & two other medical men, were in close attendance for several hours. Having procured a quantity of olive oil the patient was directed to swallow ~~to swallow~~ it in large doses, till he had taken one quart; and at the same time they rubbed into the affected part a very large quantity of mercurial ointment. In about two hours, they had the satisfaction to perceive the favorable effects of the remedies. The alarming symptoms abated, the swelling and pain gradually subsided and in about 48 hours the man

Olive oil used }

Decr
 17 was returned to health. (See
 page 63 of the Journal)
 Treatment The elder Dr. Williams of this
 of case Dr Wild town, I am informed, was suc-
 cessful in a similar practice ~
 Within my recollection, these
 dangerous reptiles were plenty
 in our northeastern woods
 and sometimes found in
 the open lands. I have killed
 several of them and have ob-
 served some of their habits.
 In moving along the ground
 they are slow, and appear
 rather clumsy; but on approach-
 ing them; they present a dif-
 ferent character, throwing them
 suddenly into a coil, the head &
 tail with the rattle, projecting from
 the center, the latter in swift mo-
 tion, giving a sharp, piercing
 sound, they present an object
 from which one is willing to
 remain at some distance, until
 provided with a proper weapon
 for an attack; but a few slight
 blows dispatch them as they
 generally attack in ambuscade, they would
 be more dangerous were it not
 for their precious signal for battle.
 which in a full grown one, may
 be heard at some distance. The
 notion that they possess the power
 of charming birds and some other
 animals, I have always considered
 as without foundation.
 Where these reptiles are numerous
 some caution is necessary to avoid
 their hidden attacks. In one
 instance I was exposed to one.

Habits
 of the
 snake

His pre-
 paration
 for bat-
 tle

Prior
 signal

Caution
 necessary

Decr
17

Instance
of expo
sure
of my
self } from one of these reptiles.
Mowing a field of Peas and oats
in the NE part of our north
meadow, I surrounded the field in
the morning, and continued the work
until I reached it to a narrow strip
then slashing the narrow remnant
with my scythe, I struck over one
of these ferocious reptiles in ambus
cade. His war signal apprised
me of his contiguity, and I soon
put the quarters(?) upon him~
Probably I had often passed near
him in the course of the day, and drawn
him inwards to the last swath.

Dogs } By some means (shall we say, in
aware } stinct!) dogs are aware of the danger
of the } of approaching them within striking
danger } distance. I have seen one of these
from } segarious servants, continuously playing
the rep } round them when discovered coiled up
tile } for battle & always at a proper dist
ance, while the same dog would
seize other snakes as soon as they
discovered them.

Once } The Rattle-snake has now become
plenty } rare in our part of the country &
in our } probably will soon become extinct.
woods } but they are plenty in some of the
} western states, where a smaller
species is also found on the prairie.
For the anatomy and physiology, and
technical description of reptiles, see the
article ophiology. Vol. 14, Edinburgh En
cylopaedia.

In the forgoing, I have given a brief
description of the movements of this rep
tile on coming suddenly upon them.
The following from the Poem entitled the
Foresters by Wilson, the ornithologist

Decr
17
Wilson's
descrip-
tion
of meet-
ing one

is more graphic appropriate and striking.
 Pursuing his route with a companion
 and a guide, up the Susquehanna
 he meets with one of these reptiles
 in his path.
 "Twas now deep noon, the winding pathway led,
 Beneath tall maples, near the river's bed,
 Where moss grown logs, on moulding ruins lay,
 And spice & dogwood fringed the narrow way;
 The scarlet berries clustering hung around,
 And mixed with yellow leaves, bestrewed the ground,
 There glistening lay, extended o'er the path
 With steadfast piercing eye, gathering wrath,
 A large grim rattle snake of monstrous size,
 Three times three feet his length enormous lies;
 His painted scales in regular rows engraved;
 His yellow sides with wreaths of dusky waved;
 Fix'd to the spot, with staring eyes we stood!
 He slowly moving, sought the adjoining wood;
 Conscious of deadly power, he seemed to say,
 Pass on in peace, let each pursue his way
 But when th' uplifted musket met his view
 Sudden in sounding coils his form he threw!
 Fierce from the center rose his flatten'd head
 With quivering tongue and eyes of fiery red,
 And jaws extended vast, where threatening lay
 The fangs of death in horrible array:
 While pois'd above, invisible to view
 His whizzing tail in swift vibration flow.
 Back sprung our bard, and aiming to let fly
 Glanced o'er the deadly tube his vengeful eye:
 And now distraction seem'd at once decreed:
 But Duncan, pleading, check'd the barbarous deed
 O spare the brave! "Our generous pilot cried,
 Let mercy Sir! let justice now decide;
 This noble foe, so terrible to sight,
 Though armed with death, yet ne'er provokes the fight."
 The pleading of Duncan prevailed;

Decr 17	the bard lowered his musket and permitted the monster to cross into the wood unmolested—a forbearance few would have granted. See appendix to my <u>to my</u> journey to the Genesee Country, in 1801. Sketch Book No. 8
18	<u>Saturday.</u> M. cloudy wind NE soon fair. Last night snow fell 2 or 3 inches. PM wind SW sleighs run through out streets.
19	<u>Sunday</u> M. fair, wind SW & air cold. PM cloudy wind NW and again SW with indications of rain
20	<u>Monday.</u> M. cloudy wind SW the day proved mostly cloudy cold A Committee appointed at a meeting of the people of our village to take measures for preserving the <u>old House</u> which escaped the conflagration of the French and Indians in 1704, are now printing a hand bill containing a plan for that purpose. It is proposed to raise a sum sufficient to purchase the whole homelot (about 6 acres) & repair the building for view, in future times. The owner, Mr Henry K Hoyt, will sell it for 2300 dollars. Whether there is an antiquarian taste among the people to carry out the plan, is to be seen. The people here are encouraged in the plan, from letters received from Gentlemen in various parts of the Country desirous of preserving the building. The success of the plan
will	Plan for pre- serving the old house in this village

Decr
20

Reflec
tions
on an
tiquari
an taste}

will depend on the taste of the people for antiquarian relicks. True it is many possess this taste; but others who calculate by dollars and units, are totally indifferent to them. Which are the most unfit members of society? is a question. For myself, however, I cannot but give the preference to the former.

Mon
uments
to the
dead}

Those who lack this taste would readily omit the creation of monuments to the dead; but in general, nothing is more gratifying than these memorials. A writer who seems to possess refined feelings on this subject, says

"There is a singular pleasure in contemplating the mighty dead, who slumber beneath you. It is a pleasure which resembles the Eolian harp heard, ~~heard~~ amidst the repose

and tranquility of night. The mind is thrown off its poise and floats along the stream of time, mellowed and chastened by retrospection. The

fame of a great man preserves every thing connected with him from oblivion; and while even the situations of magnificent cities are forgotten we are familiar with the

insignificant village that sheltered some humble philosopher, or the rill that quenched the thirst of some indigent bard"³. This taste is often found inventing in young men who are gratified with nothing but novelties, which the experienced man views with indifference ~

Satis
faction
on view
ing them}

Analy
tic medi
cine.

By a hand bill dropped in my entry, our people are invited to attend a Lecture, this evening on analytick medicine at the town hall

³ From George Watterson's *Letters from Washington on the Constitution and Laws with sketches* ... The quote is referring to Watterson's visit to Mount Vernon, and viewing Washington's grave.

Decr
20

A Lec
ture on
by Dr
Tubbs

Re
marks
on

Impor
tance of
names

21

A Let
ter

hall, by Dr H. Tubbs from Hartford. He rejects the use of minerals, as mercury & arsenic &c Likewise, bleeding, blistering, emetics, steaming, or the employment of either vegetables or mineral poison The Analytical System of Medicine he says, differs widely from all others—Thus it appears that all experience from Galin down the present time, is to be cast aside, for some theoretical scheme generated in the head or tail of some wild innovator, where knowledge of medicine, and of the human body, may be limited to the narrowest bounds. Analytic Medicine! Much depends on a new name but the most effectual for innovation are those least understood. Some long Greek name is the best, especially if wholly unknown to the people.

That medicine admits an improvement is no doubt true, and it has been improved and is improving under philosophic hands; but to set it aside at a stroke is a futile attempt. If ever it is to assume a new form, it must be by the hands of scientific men who are deeply versed in its study. Attempts of this kind, however, accord with the spirit of the times, and I should not be surprised to see attempts to set aside mathematical reasoning: all old systems must be repudiated, under the pretence of improvement!

Tuesday M. fair, wind NE and cold air; the day fair throughout.
Last evening a letter from Daughter Isabella all well. The

Decr
 21
 A good season for Genl Scotts operations }
 The Sun now at its greatest S.
 declination, and the days shortest—a favorable time for General Scott to spread liberty among the Mexicans, and teaching them the rights of nations under Mr Polks olive branch Viz. the cession of Mexico North of the latitude of 32 degrees a moderate slice for the first essay!
 But it “has ever been his” policy to cultivate peace and good will with all nations”! Had Mr Polk thus peaceful policy in his view when he ordered Gen Taylor to invade Mexico with an armed force? Let facts decide: The Californias & New Mexico were then attracting territories, and he well understood the designs of his electors and has steadily pursued them.

If further proofs of the first de signs of the war, were necessary, the message of Mr Polk to the present Congress, would furnish them in the clearest manner; and his olive branch is well understood.

22
 Mr Polks Dupli city }
Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N.E.
 some snow last night air cold & winter-like; the day cloudy throughout
 Recent accounts from Mexico state that the Government of that Country still has considerable military forces in the field; from which it appears that the war, may continue for some time, if our Government persists in its demand for indemnity and held to be just, by democracy Yet Mr Polk must be paid for heating the poker
 (See page 83 for explanation)~
 We

Decr
22

Conpla
gration
of a
house
in Green
field } We learn that the dwelling house
of Mr. D.W. Alsord of Greenfield
took fire, and was consumed last
night; the particulars not received
Conflagrations of this kind, often hap
pen from ill placed stove pipes also
much care cannot be bestowed fixing
them in wooden buildings, and []
care should they be in contact with
combustibles, or near them. A pipe
becomes fuel with soot, and some
times takes fire, and falls from the
suspending wires, setting the floor on
fire. This is particularly the case
in long horizontal pipes carried through
rooms: and it is a good precaution, to
cleanse them, in the fall season, before
they are put in use.

23

Thursday. M. fair, wind West;
the day particularly fair.
A scrap from a Mexican Anglo paper says
Generals Worth & Pillow, and Colo Dun
can, have been arrested by order of Gen.
Scott, charged with reflecting in an
improper manner upon him, the
commander in chief of the Army. The
charge is founded upon their cor
respondence, which has fallen into his
hands.
This may be a mere Camp rumor,
but we think it not altogether an
improbable circumstance. Young
Generals, especially those who have not
[] to regular service, are often
too free in their remarks on the
commander in Chief Confident of
their ability to command, they criticize
and condemn the chief for his move
ments and camp policy, thusly

A
scrap
from
Mexico }
Young
Gener
als }
als }

Decr
23

Great Generals how they repel slanders } creating insubordination in the troops, ruinous to an army.

In general, great Commanders are able to repel slanders from this subordinates, by a steady and dignified course, as in the case of Washington, when a cabal endeavored to destroy his reputation and place Gen. Gates at the head of our army. By such a course Washington put down his opposers, triumphed over them, and became the Great and good man, who at that time was the only one that could lead our army with success.

Gen Scott } Gen Scott is undoubtedly a good tactician and a brave man, but whether he possesses the sublime art of Washington, in managing the human mind, is still unknown. In his younger days it was thought he had too much chivalry for a commander; but experience & reflection has, as we believe, made him a distinct and scientific commander.

Generals Worth and Pillow } But his new-fledged Generals, partaking of his former chivalry, may criticize him for his systematic operations. Gen. Worth has seen regular service some time prior to the present war; but his rapid elevation to his present station, may have led him to an imprudent course towards his commander. Of Gen Pillow we know little, but have supposed, he was foisted in to his office by party influence without

Decr
23 without having seen service or past through a systematic camp of instruction~

Genius supplies want of instruction } Able generals, it is true, are sometimes found among such men, but they are those who possess extraordinary genius, such as Conde, Washington & a few others. who have commanded armies. But these are rare; and in general those who have gone through a course of military instruction, are to be preferred.

True indeed, we had in our revolutionary war, several distinguished Generals, who learned their duty in the presence of the enemy; but they obtained it, in the first instance, by repeated defeats General Scott's commanders of divisions and brigades, seem to suppose that desperate fighting, in any situation, embraces the whole art of war, and the loss of men seems to be of little consequence. A military writer says "a battle is the last resort of skillful commanders." This cautious mode of warfare is laid aside, fortified places are carried by rank assaults and a Waterloo slaughter is but a pastime for enlightened republicans of the modern school.

Gen Scotts military fame commenced its growth at the battle of Queenstown in 1812, and continued to flourish until the close of the war. At the com

Decr
23

mencement of the Mexican war
he was commander of regular army
from some cause democracy was
disposed to detract from his mili-
tary talents. Since his successes
in Mexico his opponents seem
disposed to take him into favor.
But it would not be an uncom-
mon event, were he to find new
opposers among his subordinate
generals, who are denizens of his
fame, and who look to their own
advancement more than the good
of their country.

24

Friday. M. fair, wind SW;
day partially fair

Convey-
ence of
Land
at S. falls

This day Mr Russell & I sold
our Land on the south side of
the River at Shelburne falls
and gave a quit claim deed to
Horace Benton residing there.

Christ-
mas
eve

Our people hold a meeting this
evening at the Unitarian Church to
commemorate Christmas, a practice
recently introduced, from the Epis-
copal Church. Our Puritan fathers
objected the observance of this cere-
mony, as savoring too much of Church
forms; but I perceive nothing
in it repulsive to the most rig-
id orthodoxy; and perhaps it
may be useful to those who are
not susceptible of a religion of pure
sentiment. In our Episcopal
Churches, it becomes rather disgusting
from its extravagant show & parade
which is apt to lead the mind from
essentials.

Re-
marks
on its
observ-
ance

25

Saturday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.
the day cloudy
My friend Joseph Henry Esqr of
Halifax

Decr. 25 sends me a bundle of the National Intelligencer, by Gales and Seaton, of Washington, containing much interesting matter. This is an ably conducted paper, and embraces most of the political topics of the day, and particularly the proceedings of Congress. Published thrice a week, at 6 dollars a year. Its opposition to the Loco foco Politics is bold and decisive, and the con doctors evince a higher order of talents than is generally found in the editorial profession.

Death of Mrs Catlin } Our near Neighbor Mr. John Catlin arrived in the evening, from New York, bringing home the corpse of his wife, who died in that City the 24 instant, aged 38 years. She has left three children, her disease a consumption, which is fatal to many of our females, & not a few of our males.

Brief notice of her charact er } Mrs. Catlin was a daughter of Judge Fay of New-York City, and had received a polished education which fitted her for an instructress in which she was sometime engaged. In 1842 she and her husband opened a High school at Darion on Log Island sound and at length discontinued, and they removed to Deerfield, where they purchased a homested on our street. Mrs. Catlin commanded respect by her accomplishments, and her death is lamented by her friends. When genius and worth is thus cut down, we mourn the loss, and seek consolation in the virtues they exhibited.

Sunday. M. fair & broken clouds.
 Decr
 26 wind W. and air cold; the day
 fair and cold. Mrs. Catlin's re
 mains were submitted to the arist
 under the Church ceremonies, of which
 she was a member.

On the
 loss of
 friends }

In the loss friends and acquaintances
 nothing more powerfully rouses
 my sensibilities than to behold a
 family of young children be
 reaved of a tender mother. These
 little innocents do not feel their
 loss, but however kind their
 friends may be, they cannot
 possess all the [] and
 patience found in a mother;
 nor is it possible for a father
 however fond of his little ones
 can, afford all the care their
 wants demand. This won
 derful solicitude of the mother, is
 a kind law of nature, essential
 no doubt, to the human race~

27 Monday. M. fair, cold & wind SW;
 the day clear & pretty cold

Mr. Hitch }
 cocks }
 Call }
 A kinsman who resides at Middle
 by Vt. called on me this day—says he
 saw my son Arthur & his family,
 about a week, at Burlington and all
 were well. and doing well- the road
 in steady progress.

Life
 of D. of
 Wellington }

In the National Intelligencer (Wash
 ton) of the 14th instant, the following work
 is offered for sale. "Life of Field Marshal
The Duke of Wellington, by W. H. Maxwell, in
 3 vols octavo, beautifully illustrated with plans
 of battles &c. 4th London edition.

Decr A full account of the Life of
 27 the Duke of Wellington has been a closed
 [] which it is hoped, the foregoing
 Re work has supplied. It may be said
 marks } perhaps, that as it is written in his
 on lifetime, it may be too flattering, but
 if this is the case, it is more likely
 to be accurate than than if delayed
 until his decease. In running through
 four editions, any material errors
 must have met the Duke's eye, &
 would have been corrected by him
 or his friends. Under these cir-
 cumstances, a writer would be suicid-
 al to his reputation were he to admit into
 his work, erroneous details from care-
 lessness or design~

Dukes } The Duke is now in his 79th
 age } year, and holds a seat in the British
 House of Lords, and I believe is
 commander of the British Army. He
 received his first Commission as En-
 sign on the 25th December 1787. af-
 ter passing through various grades
 was commissioned Lieut. Colonel of the
 33d. regiment, at about the age of 24.
 his first service in the field was in
 1794 under the Earl of Moira, in
 the Netherlands. See Clark's Life of
 the Duke, republished in this country 1814.
 with a continuation to the taking of Bor-
 deaux, by William Dunlp.~

28 Tuesday. M. cloudy- wind S.W.: some
 snow in the morn, weather cold, and
 the day cloudy & fair alternately.

29 Wednesday M. broken clouds- wind SW
 and a clear day and pleasant.

Decr
 29
 Congress
 nothing
 import
 ant
 from } as yet no decisive steps have been taken in Congress against the War but some resolutions have been introduced, which may call out the strength of parties; but I have little expectation that a majority will be found in both houses, who are disposed to take on honorable course, and do justice to the injured Mexicans If a peace is conducted it will be on the condition that the Californias and New Mexico are added to United States, arguably to the plan of democracy when Tex as was annexed to us, and unequivocally developed when Mr. Polk ordered Gen. Taylor from the Nueces to the Rio Grand. The plan however extends back to the Administration of Mr Monroe in 1824. who in his message to Congress at that time declared said "that no fringe power shall with our consent, be permitted to plant, or establish any new colony or dominion on any part of the North American continent" and this audacity is reiterated by Mr Polk, with the injunction that the principle must be maintained. Had Mr Monroe in his eye, the Californias, New Mexico, the Island of Cuba and other contiguous European possession? Be this as it may, the Governments of Europe are not at a loss, as to the intention of the interfering principle, and readily understand Mr Polk's [] when he says "It has ever been our [] policy to cultivate peace and

Decr
29 and good will with all nations;
and this policy has been steady
pursued by me" was he earnest!

30 Thursday. m. thinly cloudy; wind SW
the day fair & pleasant

Letter Wrote a Letter to Mrs. Cynthia Arms
to Mrs. of Glen's Falls requesting her to
Arms procure Grave stones to be placed
of Glens at my Daughter, Fanny's Grave in
Falls the cemetery of that Village.
} Proposed inscription for the headstone:
} Fanny Hoyt, wife of David F. Dick
} inson Esqr: died January 14th 1817,
} in her 23d year.
} "O'er the cold turf where thy pale relics sleep
} Shall fond remembrance oft repair to weep."⁴
I left it optional with Mrs. Arms
to insert the two lines of poetry,
or omit them—My Son to defray
the expense, and to visit Glens Falls
about the 18th of May, to place the stones.
if his business will permit. For
reflection on monuments for the dead
see page 96.

31 Friday. M. cloudy, foggy and
rainy—wind SW. the day
continued foggy with some rain
This day closes 1847 and com
mences my 83d year an age not
exceeded by more than two or
three persons in our village
or in the town. Born Decem
ber 31, 1765, at the time of
the
my }
birth }

⁴ Quote from an unknown author, which often found its way until tombstones in New England. The same quote can be found the stone of Fanny Forward in the Albany Road Burying Ground, who died in 1799.

Decr

31

Early

recol

lections}

the opposition to the British Stamp act, my first distinct recollection of events is what is called the massacre in Boston 1770. A printed hand bill, posted up in my father's bar room, beginning with these lines-

"Awake! Awake! my muse,
Awake O Earth & tremble at the news;
containing a view of Kings Street &
Capt Preston's Ground, is still on my
memory; as are nearly all transactions
of the revolutionary war.
If my memory is now impaired it does
not effect the recollection of former events
that came under my observation~

Events

of 1847

unpro

piteous}

During the last year Mr Polk's In
vasion, and war with Mexico,
has commanded much of our attention;
and future prospects promise nothing favorable, until the Executive branch of the Government is taken from the Misrule of the present democratic party.

Re

flec

tions}

But let us hope that another year will correct existing errors, and restore a majority of the people in all the state, to the principles of morality, justice, honor, & humanity. With these virtues, and a study pursuit of the peaceful arts, the United States may become a great and happy nation, where the arts and sciences shall flourish, the condition of man be ameliorated, and the wise and good shall delight to dwell. By an opposite course all these blessings will be reversed, our national character tarnished, and sunk to a low point in the scale of nations

End of No 21

Sketch-Bok No. 22
from January 1st 1848 to
January 1st 1849.

1848
Janu ary 1st

Saturday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.; foggy, and some rain last night; the snow much reduced, and our street nearly bare. The day continued cloudy & foggy.

Intro ducto ry re marks

In continuing my journal and sketches, it is my intention to notice such occurrences and events as I deem important and interesting; and as I write in a sort of off hand style & not for the public, shall express my thoughts & opinions in un studied language, resting satisfied, if any of my friends who may well look them over shall comprehend my meaning.

Apolo gy

In many instances it will be seen that I have carelessly omitted letters in words, and in others faulty orthography. In general I aim to follow Mr Webster, and whether his orthography is the best, I care not. With me it is enough that we have a standard to appeal to; and his definitions I believe are generally considered as correct.

Polk's war

In my notices of events of Mr Polk's

Jany
1
Polk's vandalic war with Mexico, I
shall endeavor to give them the []
[] they deserve.

General
Scotts
opera
tions }
Gen. Scott's operations may be
strickly military, but I cannot
avoid remarking that some of his
battles have been rash, and at
tended with unnecessary loss of
men, which a prudent com
mander would have avoided. The
mode of attacking strong forti
fications, with troops recently

This nov
el mode }
of attack }
brought from their peaceful scene
of domestic homes, is novel, and
savors to much of Napoleon and
his impetuous Subordinates.
who considered the loss of men
of no consequence, provided a battle
was won.

However commendable such dis
regard of human life may be, in
a defensive war, in one waged for
the conquest of a neighboring nation.
which asks only for its existence
under its established form, it is
deserving of no more respect than
the exploits of Attila & his hords,
when they rushed from the
wild region of the north, to de
vastate & plunder the Roman Em
pire. In such war, General
Scott will look in vain for
an addition to his military fame.

Hi famed }
assailed }
Already, if we may rely on recent ac
counts from Mexico, his reputation as a
commader, has been assailed, by two
of his subordinate generals, though
we are inclined to believe, without
sufficient grounds, for the support
of their [].

Jany 1
 our down hill course } In continuing the journal we shall also, keep an eye on the down-hill course of the federal government, while in the hands of democracy, and notice the utopian schemes brought forward under the pretence of political improvements~

The term deo cracy } To the term democracy we have no objections, provided it is used in its legitimate sense, a Government by the people; but when used to designate a political party, whose object is to overthrow the salutary rules and institutions which the wisdom of former times found necessary to adopt, it presents a charade which no patriot can esteem. In

Its defi nition } this last sense I use the term when I speak of it, as reproachful. But let it be understood that a portion of the democratic party is not held in this light, but as [] by demagogues, who are regardless of the public welfare and would prostrate every thing that abstracts their wild schemes.

Delu sions of dema gogues } At the commencement of our Federal government, Washington & his co patriots, were esteemed and in their hands. prosperity & happiness flowed in upon the people in all parts of the Union. At that time the parties were called Federalists

Wash ington }
 time }

Practices then }

Jany

1

Effects
of the
French
Revolu
tion

and Anti-Federalists, but the latter was small & soon gave up their opposition to the Constitution; but at the commencement of the French Revolution a flame was kindled in our Country which has continued to the present time, and the name of Anti-Federalists is changed to that of Democrats, as more popular.

During the latter part of President Washington's administration, his character was assailed, his military talents denied, and all that

was excellent admirable in his life repudiated- To those acquainted with the history of that time it is needless to recite the astounding facts. But they are unknown to a great portion of the young at this time, and the origin of democracy is kept out of view.

In continuing our journal these facts shall not be smothered by designing demagogues, who tell their dupes, that they are Federal lies. That corruption in so high a degree as we now see it, should have prevailed in all parts of our union, can be explained only from the fact that the people have lost their good sense, and political virtue has sunk to a low level

Wash
ington's
charac
ter as
sailed

Politi
cal
corrupt
ion

Jany 2
 Ground free from snow } Sunday. m. cloudy wind N.
 and the day cloudy throughout
 The snow has now left the
 ground entirely level and winter
 seems to have departed. At
 sun set the clouds broke away,
 & the Sun's "everlasting
 light" gave us a short cheer;
 "Whence are thy beams, O Sun!
 thy everlasting light?"⁵
 But thou art, perhaps like
 me, for a season; thy years will
 have an end."⁶

Sun's ever lasting light }

Re marks on }

Laplace's calcu lation }

This prediction of Ossian
 is opposed to the result of
 Laplace's calculation, which
 claims to have demonstrated
 the Stability of the solar system
 The poet [] from analogy;
 the mathematician from the prin
 ciples of gravitation & geometry.
 But before the stability of the solar
 system is proved to be eternal
 it becomes necessary to show
 that the laws of nature shall
 never deviate from their prst
 design. The same power which
 created the laws, may for vain
 purposes, beyond our comprehen
 sion, alter these; but who can
 say that the laws of gravitation are
inherent in matter. The machinery
 of the solar system and indeed that of
 the universe, is no doubt perfect; but who
 will say that it will now be attend
 with [] of the Creator?

⁵ James Macpherson's *Ossian's Address to the Sun*

⁶ James Macpherson's *Poems of Ossian, Carthon*

Jany Monday. M. fair, wind N.E.
 3 day fair & pleasant
 Call of Last evening my friend L.B.
 Mr. Lin Lincoln of Hingham, gave me
 coln & a call; he and his family well.
 notice He informs me that my ingenious
 of C.O. friend Charles O. Boutell was re
 Boutelle } cently at that place, on the trigo
 nometrical survey of the Sea coast,
 and that he was to remain
 in that quarter during the wint
 er. I was fearful he was employed
 on the unhealthy coast of the
 southern states. As a Geodesic
 surveyor his talents are of a
 high order; This prosperity adds
 to my enjoyment. His survey of
 the sea coast is a noble acquisition to
 our science. It would also be grati
 fying to hear from my old friend
 Simeon Borden late trigonometrical
 surveyor of this Commonwealth, who
 has my best wishes for his prosperity.
 If I have found among my friends
 men of science whom I have held in
 bright estimation, I have also found
 others, though of less attainments,
 yet not less deserving of respect. For
 associates give me men of enlarged
 view, warm hearts, & social feelings, and
 I [] not for the applause of those
 who are called Greats, merely
 from their supposed excellence
 in some astute profession.
 But the esteem of truly great men
 is a gem of inestimable value, and
 should be sought for by All; but that it
 be remembered, that goodness as well as
 greatness are necessary to constitute the
 Great man.

Jany 4 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE.
 the day fair & cloudy and wind variable. The aspect of the ground is similar to that of Spring—not a patch of snow to be seen. Is this caused by the internal heat of the earth or a flow of the air from the torrid zone in the upper region of the atmosphere, producing a 7 % rotary motion, as suggest in some of my preceding numbers. That such a motion exists, there can be little doubt. This gyration of the atmosphere affords an easy explanation of the sudden changes from extreme cold, to a warm air we often observe in the winter season; and [] seems to be the necessary consequence of hydrostatic laws.

Theoretical remarks }
 5 Wednesday. m cloudy wind NE
 the day mostly cloudy & wind SW
 Our state Legislature assembles at Boston, this day. Of the Senate only 17 members, members of the Senate are decided by the people, while the House is supposed to consist of about two thirds conservatives or Whigs. As a Whig Governor is elected by the people, and in a joint ballot of the two houses will be Whig, the Senate whose the 23 vacancies are filled will be Whigs also; in all all the three branches. the second: [] the 17 members elected in the Senate are Whigs, that branch will all be same

Meeting of our Legisla ture }
 Its political character }

Jany

5

The }
War }

But as the war power is intrusted to Congress, the unjust invasion of Mexico may be continued: And indeed, there seems to be a growing disposition in that body, to conquer the whole of Mexico, which was not, at first, the plan of democracy; this object being to acquire possession of the California and north Mexico.

Duty }
of the }
body }

Our Legislature, it is hoped, will express its views on the injustice of the war, and show that northern republicans have not lost all sense of right, and kind feelings towards neighboring nations, striving for existence under their own governments.

Demo
crats of
Massa
chusetts }

In giving aid to the present war the democrats of Massachusetts evince a singular character—a character hostile to the rights of man, as well as to their own interests, and should they persist in their error, they will find that to be prosperous & happy, national virtue and justice, is the only sure basis. That ambitious men should be found in the state who would invert the order of things, is not strange; but that they should be able to deceive and mislead a large portion of the honest people, is mysterious.

Let these leaders cease their evil [—] [—] and, peace, order & happiness would reign through out our land.

Jany 5 The Session } The legislative sessions we might suppose would be short; but much local business generally obstructs and prompts for rail-roads are still rife through, we believe, no new charters are necessary within the state for public convenience. The project for one from Greenfield, up Deerfield river to Hoosack mountain, through which a tunnel is to be cut 4 or 5 miles to Adams, & thence to be extended to Troy on the Hudson, is too wild a project, to be entertained for a moment.

R.R. Char ters } Other business may come before the legislature. We have heard of a Committee, appointed at the last session, to report on the condition of the militia, but know not the object. That our militia is in an unprosperous state cannot be denied; but as the power of regulating it resides in Congress, any State efforts to model it, may be useless. The old plan of making every able bodied man a soldier, must be given up, and a select body provided, and appointed on the several states~

Mili tia } Thursday. M. fair, wind W; last night a snow fell an inch or two deep & a brisk wind prevailed, the day fair and cold~

6 Died this morning, Col. Thomas Ash ley of our village, aged 71. Grand son of the Revd. Jonathan Ashley & son of Doct. E. Ashley of this town. Col. Ashley was a farmer,; & noticed for the neat manner he carried on his business; Possessed of a mechanical genius, he kept a

Death of Col. Ashley

Jany 6 sort of work-shop, furnished with the tools proper for repairing implements of husbandry; or for constructing them on emergencies—a practice affording much aid to the farmer, when professional workmen are not to be found.

His me chani chal genius } He commanded a regiment in the 4th division of militia, and studied the tactics of the parade, and has left several industrious sons and a wife~

7 Letter from my Daugh ter } Friday M. fair, wind N.E; the young David Bryant from Chicopee falls, brings me a letter from daughter Isabella—all well.

Clock clean ed by } Third day of the Legislative session, and yet show nothing direct from its proceedings. This is tantalizing to those residing in the vicinity of rail roads.

8 Saturday. m. cloudy & foggy; wind NW: snow falls air cold; the day cloudy & cold. Employed Derrick C Hawes of Dummerston, to clean my clock, which is subject to quieten in cold weather. He says the machinery is in good order and the stoppage occurring to foulness, and want of good oil~

Letter from Glens falls } Evening. Received a Letter from Lewis L. Arms of Glens Falls in answer to one to his mother of the 30th ult. concerning a pair of grave stones for my Daughter Fanny's grave at that place. Mr Arms has obtained from Mr B[], their stone cutter, who he says is a good worker

Jany workman, the following
8 terms: The stones of white mar-
ble; the name of the deceased to
be put on in raised letters.
 Price A stone 4 feet 6 inches long, & 1 foot 9 wide
of Grave for 16 dollars.
 stones at One 3 foot 8 inches + 1 f. 9 in. for 12 dollars
 The above to cover the expense of
placing the stones. The two lines of
poetry sent to Mrs. Arms, with the
inscription, would perhaps, add to
the expense about one dollar. An
additional expense of 2 dollars, he
thinks, would add much to the
appearance of the stone, by putting
on at the distance of perhaps one
inch from the edge, a fluting or bead-
ing, which gives the effect of a
panel, on which is placed the
inscription; the panel thus made
appear distinct and perfect, as it
does plain & substantial. Offers fur-
ther assistance in the matter.

9 Sunday. m. partially fair, wind S.W.
some snow fell last night; the
day much the same & cold~
The weather is now pretty severe &
calls for ample supplies of fuel and
[] and let us recollect
the poor families who are now in
want of both. In this I fear we
neglect our duty. O Poverty! Thou
art a bitter pill, especially in cold
climates where man is seen in his
most miserable condition, if without
property.

10 Monday. M fair & cold, wind N.W.
the same through the day.
Wrote a Letter to Lewis L. Arms
of Glens Falls, authorizing him to
procure

Jany 10 procure a pair of Gravestones
 Letter to Lew is L Arms } for the grave of my Daughter Fanny
 Glens falls } in the cemetery of that place; the
 price not to exceed 19 dollars, to be
 paid on or before the 10th of May
 next, my son Arthur to be at
 the falls at that time, or before
 to place the stones and pay the
 money for them~
 In the afternoon David Bryant
 our visitor left us for Greenfield
 where he is to return to Springfield
 by rail-road.~
 Of the proceedings of our General
 Court we have nothing, excepting
 on the first day of the session; and
 Congress proceeding are equally tar
 dy. The war with Mexico was
 commenced for the conquest of territory
 and nothing short of that will
will satisfy, our war hawks
 To look for a magnanimous
 course in a majority of that body
 is in vain. Delinde est Carthogo
 is the growing motto. Nor is con
 quest to stop here. No foreign
 nation is to obtain any new pos
 sessions in North America. See
 Monroes & Polks messages to Congress
Cuba is the next bait, and
 the Island of Jamaica is within
 the scent of the pack.
 11 Tuesday M. fair & very cold, and wind
 N.; the day fair
 Severe cold } Thermometer this morn said
 to be 18 to 20 degrees below zero.
 This is like the winters of olden
 times, when the snow were from

Jany 11 two to three feet in depth, and frequently drifted into heaps which entirely blacked the roads and rendered them impossible.~

Letter from D.S.Hoyt } Recd. a Letter from David S. Hoyt of the U.S. Army, in the City of Mexico, containing thermometrical observations, on the weather there, through the month of October, with notices of the winds and clouds. The observations were made at sun rise, noon & sunset, at the Citadel of the City of Mexico. He serves in the artificer corps of ordnance, in the siege train. The highest point during the month was 79°, and the lowest 39. Average of month, at noon, 70°,16; at sun rise 52 by Fahrenheit scale.

This young man has a taste for science and his acquirements, I think, are much in advance of many of the officers of the Army. I wish he were engaged in a noble cause, the defense of his country. Of the operations of the army he gives no details; the duty of a soldier, being implicit obedience to orders (Letter []

12 Wednesday. M. fair, wind SW and weather less severe; the day fair & wind became W.

Letter to my son } Mailed a Letter to son Arthur at Burlington, giving the arrangements made with Mr. Lewis L. Arms of Glens falls, for gravestones.

Gov ernors messag ge } Gov. Briggs message to Legislature, is inserted in the Springfield Daily of this day. It was delivered yesterday from a printed copy, by his Excellency. And contains good sense, and source matter; the war is [] in its nefarious character.

Jany 13 Arrest of Genls } Worth & Pillow }
Thursday M. cloudy, wind NW &
air cold. and day cloudy
Reports in the papers say Generals
Worth & Pillow, and Col. Duncan
are under arrests, and to be tried by
Court martials at Vera Cruz; and that
Gen. Scott is to be recalled from the
command of the army in Mexico.

by Gen } Scott }
That Mr Polk and his Cabinet
are willing to part with Gen. Scott
is pretty clear, since he is not popular
with the President & his party,
who want a commander less systematic
in his operations and more
adapted to the wild chivalry of
western volunteers. A military
machine constructed by democracy
is necessarily liable to confusion and dashing of its parts.
Worth & Pillow may be brave
but at the same time unfit for
commanders of large bodies; &
of Gen. Scott expects to add to
his fame while under the direction
of the present administration, he will be disappointed

Re marks }
14 Friday. M cloudy, wind NW; some
rain fell before noon. the day continued the same.

History of Shrewsbury }
History of Shrewsbury }
by Andrew H. Ward 1 Vol. 8 vo. pp
508. printed at Boston 1847, including
an exclusive Family Register.
In this work is a short Biography of
Gen. Artemus Ward, born in that town
Nov. 27, 1727 graduated at Cambridge
1748. He was an officer in the militia
under the provincial government. In
1758 Lt. Colonel in the regiment of foot
commanded by Col. William Williams
raised for the invasion of Canada,
and

General Ward }
General Ward }

Jany 14 and was in the attack on Ticonde roga in 1758, under General Abercrom bie, From some loose leaves of a jour nal kept by him, the writer gives the following: "Great irregularity prevailed among the troops (1600 regular and provincials) while on their march from Lake George to Ticonderoga, The way was woody & otherwise dif ficult; the army marched in four columns; the guides being unskillful the troops were soon bewildered, the columns broke, marching & countermarch ing, became general, and "all was confusion, confusion! In this disor derly manner the army preceded on its march, column falling upon col umn, and driving before them and killing many of an advanced guard.

In the Camp aign of 1758 At Ticon dero ga Lord Howe killed Not at the attack on the French lines

of the enemy. An ill concerted at tack was next made upon the fort; after 4 hours of hard fighting Gen Abercrombie ordered a retirement. Nearly 2000 of the regulars were killed wounded, or taken prisoners. Among the former was the gallant Lord Howe, who had command of a regi ment, The fort was defended by cannon & manned by four or five thousand men." The rough abattis in front of the work (about 100 yards) is mentioned.

In this account the common er ror, that Lord Howe was killed at the works is embraced: This gallant officer fell in a skirmish, about half a mile from the north end of Lake George, on the day the army landed. and about $2 \frac{1}{2}$ miles from the French lines at Ticonderoga, near the present valley of Alexandria

This appears to be the only campaign in which Gen. Ward served, prior to 1775. at Cambridge His

Jany 14 His Death }
 Gen Wards appointment in Conti nental Army } His Death }
 15 Fuel price }
 Plant ing of trees }

His appointment by the provincial Congress, to the command of the New England forces, placed him in an arduous station, in which he continued until George Washington was appointed by the Continental Congress, to the command of their army, when Gen. Ward was appointed 1st major General in that army, On the 17th of May 1775. In April 1776 he requested Congress to grant him a discharge from his command, on account of bodily infirmity, but was continued in the services ~~command~~ until the close of that year; and subsequently was in various offices in the civil department. He died Oct. 27th 1800, aged 73 years. Gen. Ward's orderly-book is preserved, and from it may be seen his police of the army while under his command~

Saturday M. cloudy with rain, which prevailed last night, wind W; the day cloudy & foggy & some rain. Fine wood has now become an expensive article. We pay 2 dollar 75 cents per cord for dry 4 feet wood delivered at the door and it will continue to rise in the price as the country increases its inhabitants. One century here, the hills & mountains will be stripped of their woods, and as no ample beds of fossil coal are found in New-England, fuel wood must be an article difficult to procure. Coal from a distance must be expensive; and it becomes a question whether forest trees may not propagate by planting & transplanting and a supply of fuel ensconced~

During

Jany 15 During the past week, we have seen little of the proceedings of our General Court, or of Congress. From within have we any regular chain of communication, though rail roads and telegraph's are plenty. Of late there seems to be some irregularity in the mails, and appear from Amherst is 3 or 4 days on the passage. From Congress we look for nothing [] to the patriot, for we believe Mr. Polk's war will be continued until Mexico is an nihilated, or reduced to vassalage by the party now in the ascendency. Having the public purse in their hands, they will stop at nothing short of the conquest first planned by the party, and put in operation by Mr. Polk, We have indeed men in Congress, who wail at injustice, but in vain will they attempt to stop the current of corruption which now sweeps with relentless fury, the lib erty & rights of a weak nation, and others of a similar character, may hence learn their fate.

Reflec tions on the state of affairs } great talents rejected }

We have our Websters, our Calhouns, our Clays or Galatins & other patriots, who expose the vandalism of the war. But who are these patriots? In the eye of democracy, their honor, their rectitude, their greatness are but so many marks of their unfitness for high place es, in a democratic government, in which talent is repudiated, and cringing submission to the multitude, is substituted.

16 Sunday. m. fair, wind NW; the day fair & mild, very clear wind NE Last night the ice in our river broke up by a rise of water. Contrast the temperature

Jan'y
16
The
prob
lem }
temperature with that of Monday
last and the night following. and
then comes the problem why this dif
ference while the sun has about the
same position in the heavens? Will my
hypothesis of a gyrating motion in the at
mosphere solve it?

17 Monday m cloudy; soon broken
wind NE: the day fair and
wind changed to SW. The snow is now
diminished, especially on the hills
having a western aspect.

18 Tuesday m. fair, wind SW; soon
cloudy with some snow gust &
alternate sun shine.

19 Wednesday. M. fair, wind W; cold
air, the day clear & rather cold.
We have little snow at this time
and what carriages run instead of
sleighs

20 Thursday M partially cloudy,
wind S, & fluctuating: the day

John
Q. Adams }
on ma
sonry
a new
work }
My esteemed friend Henry Gassett of
Boston, sends me Letters on the Mason
ic Institution. By John Quincy Adams
a handsome 8 vo. vol. printed at Boston 1847.
In the Preface of 40 pages we have a hist
ory of freemasonry—its abduction & murder
of William Morgan, and the manner in
which the institution triumphed over the
Courts & Laws of the state of New-York.
The work consists principally of letters from
Mr Adams, to individuals on the subject of
masonry. The publication is timely; for the
monster begins to raise it head, conning
the inconsiderate & superficial young men
in the state. We have lately seen a notifica
tion in the paper for a meeting of masons

a time
ly pub
lication }
a time
ly pub
lication }

Jany 20 at Northampton, to form a [—]
 [—] Royal Arch chapter! "Tell it not in
 Gath"⁷

Effects to revive masonry }
 of the people of Northampton and the vicinity, we are disposed to speak with respect; but should they be inclined to patronage such a crudity, at this day, we must withhold our esteem, and pronounce them far below the improvements we had flattered ourselves they had arrived at.

Re marks } on Point me to a town where freemasonry is now held in esteem, and I will show a community among which general knowledge is at a low ebb, moral obligations but Lilliputian ties, and their religion no better than the dregs of ancient mythology.

21 Friday. M. cloudy, wind S. but but variable, the day cloudy.
 We have that Mr Samuel Catlin of Pemuka, Alabama, formerly of this town, died suddenly at that place a few days ago, aged 58. He was bred a farmer, became a trader but being unfortunate in the business, emigrated to Alabama, where he was engaged in various business, and I am informed was respected by the people

22 Saturday m. fair, wind W; PM cloudy & wind SW.
 Another week has elapsed without hearing of any decisive action of Congress on the Mexican war. But it appears Mr Polks course is not entirely [] out of sight. Calls are made for information on certain points, which he declines giving, and no doubt [] this plain reason—they will not bear the light!

⁷ 2 Samuel 1:20

Jany 22 His object in the invasion of Mexico was well known to the party who elected him; they had an eye on the extensive territory west of Texas & Mr Polk was the agent to carry out the scheme, and receive possession of the premises. The first step in the process, after the Annexation of Texas, was war with Mexico; Gen. Taylor with a regular force to advance to the Nueces, which it was hoped, would effect object; but finding the Mexicans not disposed to contest that position, Gen. Taylors force was ordered to advance to the Rio Grand & fortify a post on Mexican ground. This it was known, would be resisted, and of course the desired war produced. But her[e] a difficulty was presented, Mr Polk knew that he had no constitutional power to make war, without the consent & concurrence of Congress. To remove this difficulty he, or his cabinet, contrived a sham to enlist that body in his scheme. Gen. Taylor was to make his advance without a supply of provisions, and of course be placed in a critical position. Congress he knew would not suffer the troops to starve or be captured by the Mexicans. The bait took, and 50 thousand volunteers were directed to be raised, & 10 millions of dollars to begin the game, and "conquer a peace". Thus Congress by a blind course, fell into the democratic plan contrived for the advancement of the war.

At that time the accession of the California & new Mexico was considered as secured and

Bait laid for Con gress }

Its pro gress }

Eagerly seized }

Plan of the war }

Jany
22

The
indem
nity }

23

Petition
of Unit
arians to
Congress }

Re
marks }

24

and soon after, Mr Polk's agricultural
regiment was raised, & shipped round Cape
horn to take possession of the desired territory
But the Mexicans proving [],
the invasion was continued southerly of
Rio Grand to other points of Mexico, and now
a claim is set up, for the whole of Mexi
co, as an indemnity for the full swoop.

At any rate, Mr Polk and his party must
be paid for heating the poker (Page 83 No. 21)

Sunday. M. cloudy, but soon fair, with N
E wind, and fair day; very little
snow on the ground & weather moder
ate.

In the proceedings of Congress it is stated
that Mr. Hale of N.H., presented the petition
2900 Unitarian Clergymen and laymen,
asking the withdrawal of our troops and
the appointment of Commissions to treat
for peace with Mexico. (Wednesday Jany 12th)
Unitarians believe that injustice & immorality
are incompatible with true religion.

Little useful effect can be expected
from petitions, unless they become so
numerous as to be felt in the ballot
boxes, where they become powerful
for good or evil.

But such is the charm thrown around
military achievements, especially to the young,
that moral considerations have little or
no effect: and nothing short of a heavy
direct tax will open their eyes to the
wickedness of the existing war. An epau
let and a cockade eclipse every other
object, and chivalrous feats, all the em
ployments of evil life. Such is man
enchanted by the powerful arts: nor will
wars cease so long as this disposition pre
vails.

Monday. M. fair, wind NE. and the
day very clear, calm and pleasant,
and night pretty cold.

Jany
24

Rattle
snakes
battle
with

Particu
lars of

Num
ber
killed

The Rattle Snake (Crotalus Horridus)
At page 92 No 21 (of my sketches) I have
have noticed this reptile and given
some account of its habits, and stated
that these serpents was once plenty in
our woods. In a communication
from Dr Stephen W Williams to the Med
ical & Surgical Journal (Boston) Jany 5
1848, I notice the following in rela
tion to the former prevalence of the reptile in
this town said to be taken from the
archives of the Mass Historical Society.

A Mr. Jonathan Hawks was plough
ing not far from the mountain
called sugar Loaf, near the ferry landing
to Sunderland. He saw a number of
turkeys coming into the field; he got his
gun in order to kill them, but before he
was ready the turkeys made off up towards
the mountain, and as he was advancing
up the same, he was surrounded by a
number of rattle snakes; and he being of
a heroic spirit, and man like both to
turn his back and run, though surround
ed by such spiteful & malignant serpents
(as those serpents are the most spiteful
that crawl upon the ground) he sat
down his gun (as they had none) and took a stick
that lay handy, stands his ground and
fights them, kills 34 of the serpents on
the spot; the rest were so frightened, at
the valor & activity of the man, that they
were glad to quit the field of battle, and
hide themselves in the holes under the
rocks, and leave the hens in the pos
session of the field. He took 33 eggs out
of those he killed at that time; he destroyed
67 of these serpents. Of course killed 34
with his wooden weapon.

Jany
24

Habits
of the
reptile

Destory
ed by
old hun
ters

Reflec
tions
on their
creation

Our mountain Rattle snakes congregate in dens & cavities of the rocks during the winter season, and remain in a sort of dormant state until the warm season approaches, when they come out to bask in the sun's rays, and range at some distance. Mr. Hawks must have approached one of these dens, and his slaughter must have relieved the neighboring settlers ~~from~~ from an inconvenience of no trifling character.

Other haunts of these reptiles were known in our woods, generally in the greenstone range in our eastern woods. The old hunters, I am informed often dragged them from their dens, by implements prepared for that purpose and killed many. They have now become nearly extinct in our town~

In the creation of these poisonous reptiles, we do not readily pursue the economy of nature; but as all creation is the work of infinite wisdom, we must suppose they answer some useful purpose in the scale of being, in which so much benevolence is displayed, as well as throughout the Universe.

But if human happiness be the great end, The Poet inquires:

"But errs not nature from this gracious end,
From burning suns when livid deaths descend
When earthquakes swallow or when tempest sweep
Towns to one grave, whole nations to the deep?

No ('tis replied) the first Almighty cause,
Sets not by partial, but by gen'ral laws."⁸

Until man can fathom the designs
of the Creator, it would be rash to say
imperfections is seen in his works.

The Poet dons the subject with these truths:

"All nature is but art, unknown to thee;
All chance direction, which thou can not see;
All discord harmony, not understood;
All partial evil, universal good."⁹

⁸ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

⁹ Ibid.

Jany 25	<u>Thursday.</u> M. cloudy, wind SW, and the day the same.
Resigna tion of our Adju tant Gen eral } }	We learn that our Adjutant General Oliver, has resigned his office and that Capt. [] of [] is appointed in his place. Of General Oliver I have entertained a favorable opinion, and though him well qualified for the office he sustained But his resignation excites no surprise; for I was well convinced that the military machine of this Commonwealth, was too defective to attract the attention of an officer of military science. The present system I consider an improvement of the old which attempted to make every able bodied man a solder but it is still miserably defective. The time allowed for instruction is totally inadequate and the instructors, in general, unacquainted with military science and the first principles of tactics. Annual encampments, by regiments or battalions, attended by well taught tacticians, under the pay of government place the select corps of militia on a respectable footing, and render a large standing force, in time of peace unnecessary. But before an adequate plan can be adopted, there must be a total change in the public mind, in relation to military discipline.
Defects of the militia system } }	The victories won in the Mexican war, by undisciplined corps of volunteers, will no doubt strengthen the belief of [] [] thinkers, that discipline, as preparation to war, is unnecessary, and that a blind chivalrous spirit is all that is important in war. Had our undisciplined corps been first led against <u>disciplined veterans</u> such as were commanded by Wellington and Bonaparte, the results of the battles would have been of quite a different character: and [] that something more than <u>wild chivalry</u> is necessary in war.
wild volunteer spirit } }	

Jany 26 Wednesday m cloudy, wind NW.
the day generally cloudy, wind variable from NW to S. and thence to N.
and indications of rain.~

Mr Adams letters on masonry } I have just completed the perusal of John Q. Adams' Letters on the Institution of freemasonry. The work was recently published at Boston by patriotic individuals, for gratuitous distribution—A noble act. Upwards of 20 years

The Morgan mur der little known to the young } have elapsed since the murder of Wm Morgan at Fort Niagara, by the institution; and a race of young has arisen who know little of the outrage nor will they readily conceive that so corrupt an institution should have existed in our country. The facts were all known to Mr. Adams & others who took pains to collect the truth, soon after the murder.

The Introduction to the work, as well as the letters of Mr Adams, give a pretty full account of the institution. and its transactions. History it is believed, will not be silent on the subject, though it will be a dark chapter in our annals.

In no part of Mr. Adams' life has he displayed more energy & patriotism than in the suppression of this anomalous and pernicious institution, which by its [] influence, had spread over every part of our country; and well nigh penetrated the dearest rights of the people. And nothing short of murder, in obedience to its bloody oaths, would have roused the people to their danger.

The designs of the Brotherhood were secrets; nor was it known to the [] [], even or to the members of the first & second [] in the ladder to which power the combination had acquired in every State of our Union though now and then its orators confiding

Secrecy the bas is of mason ry }

Jany
26
in its supremacy, imprudently
portrayed its features so strik-
ingly exact, as not to be mistaken
by ordinary intellect.

Mason-
ic ora-
tors }
One of their orators Wm. F Brainard,
in an address to the craft in July 1825,
at New London, presented the power
of the institution, in the following undisguised lan-

[] }
[] }
of ma-
sonic
power }
guage, "It (Freemasonry) is powerful
it comprises men of rank, wealth
office and talent, in power and out
of power, and that in almost every
place where power is of any import-
ance. And it comprises among other
classes of the community to the low-
est, in large numbers, active men

Mr
Brain-
ard's
devel-
ope-
ment
of it. }
invited together, and capable of being
directed by the efforts of others so
as to have the force of concert through-
out the civilized world. They are
too dishabituated too with the means of
knowing one another, and the means
of co-operating, in the desk, on the legis-
lative hall, on the bench, in every
gathering of business, in every party of
pleasure, in every domestic circle, in
peace and in war, among enemies and
friends, in one place as well as in ano-
ther."

Effects }
of }
Believing this to be a true represent-
ation of the power of the institution;
timorous men began to think that

Its tri-
umph }
in the
Courts
of N York }
the only security of their rights, was
in becoming members of the craft; and
when some of the murderers of Morgan
were brought before the Courts in the
state of New York, it was soon seen that
Mr. Brainard had not overstated the
power of the midnight fraternity.

But its power in the New England
states, though granted was at length
put down by the people, and the enactment

Jany
26
Less in
N. En
gland }

of a law in Massachusetts and I be
live in Vermont, against extra-judicial
oaths. From that time to the pre
sent, the craft have generally sus
pended the exhibitions of their []
[], and remained in "digni
fied silence". But a substitute un
der the name of odd fellowship, has
recently spread to a considerable
extent, which if less pernicious, is
not without danger to our politi
cal institutions. Mr Adams let
ters, and the accompanying intro
duction, has appeared at a favor
able time, and it is hoped may

Thanks } due to
Mr. Adams }

enlighten the people on the horrible
institution of freemasonry as it
once existed in the United States.
The Gentlemen who have been at
the expence of the publication, are rich
ly entitled to the thanks of their coun
try.

27

Thursday. M. cloudy, with rain
and N.E. wind; the day continued
rainy & wind changed to N.
By the last account from Congress
it appeared that the ten regiment bill
in the Senate, would not pass that
body. If however Mr Polk intends
to conquer the whole of Mexico; these
regiments, and more, will be wanted
to hold the people in subjection, and supply
the loss of men by sickness, which is no
doubt, greater than is presented to the
public eye. One symptom of this, is
the number of officers, [] from
their commands, on leave of absence.

Congress
late
accounts
from }

A summer campaign in Mexico, we think, must
have melted lower the spirit, they pos
sessed when they left their homes to kill
Mexicans & not in the halls of Monte
zuma in defense of their country

Jany 27 Genl Scott's promotion} Gen. Scott's reputation as a Commander in Chief, seems not to be firmly established in the views of his subordinates, who have preferred complaints against him since his arrest of Generals Worth and Pillow~ The command of an army consisting of undisciplined corps is not a task a scientific General would choose. Scott's Generals owe their plans to Mr. Polk, and it would be singular indeed, if he is a competent Judge of military qualifications. Gen. Scott may be recalled, and a commander more congenial to democracy appointed in his place. And, if we can rely on hints of the late papers, this is the plan of Mr Polk & his cabinet. Under such an administration, General Scott may find "the post of honor a private station"

His recall not im proba ble. } It is also hinted that the General has expressed a willingness to be recalled from the command of the army in Mexico. This may be correct, for we believe he is not very desirous of making another campaign under the vertical rays of a Mexican Sun; and it is probable that most of the warm patrols under him, feel the same aversion to a second campaign, where malaria is more formidable than Mexican bullets.

The warm patriots} Gen. Cushing, however, may be an exception, since he has not had an opportunity to try the goodness of his steel in a battle; and his readiness to accept of the gubernatorial chair in Massachusetts savors, not a little, of a preference to civil life, where ambition may be gratified at a distance from the cannon mouth. Let it not be supposed that we "doubt his steel". We mean only to say, "[] hinders []." may not possess all the charms he had anticipated—while at his peaceful home.

Gen. Cushing's steel un tried}

Jany Others who sought glory under the
27 burning rays of a Mexican sun, we believe,
Other } gener participate in the same feelings, and
als with the same pleasure, would
 return to their proper employments of
 domestic life.

28 Friday. M. fair, wind W. the
 day fair & air moderate.

Arthur } Fuller's The funeral of Mr Aaron Fuller's
funeral son, Arthur, past our house in the after
 noon; he died of a consumption, aged
 This fatal disorder makes sad inroads
 on our young people, or those of mid
 dle age, and no effectual remedy
 is found for its prevention or cure.
It seems to be peculiar to cold and vari
able climates, such as that of New
England & other Northern States. In
the Southern, fatal fevers take the place
of consumptions, & which is the most fatal
is a question. And why are not other
animals, furnished with lungs, subject to
similar diseases?

Since writing the above, I am in
formed that the funeral noticed was
not that of Mr Fuller but of the wife
H. Russell of South Deerfield who died
of a disease unknown to me.

Mr. Fuller died Wednesday last, of the
disease mentioned, & this day is buried
in the family cemetery of Mr Fuller's
father, at whist is called the Bars,
at the side of his mother, who died
of the same disease; as I was informed.

Mr. Sheldon was with my Son when
employed on rail roads in the state of Illinois,
and there suffered severely with the fever
and ague, which probably broke his
constitution, brought on a consumption,
in our cold region.

Erroneous statement
in part

Jany 29 Saturday. m. cloudy, wind SW
 a flash of snow last night; but most
 of the day fair. and snow gone.
 We hear various rumors of peace
 with Mexico, but all considered ground
 less. That a just and honorable
 peace might be made with her
 within a short time, is not
 doubted, provided we were so
 disposed. But so long as Mr
 Polk insists on a cession of so large
 a portion of her territory to us, she
 may as well remain in her present con-
 dition, and at the risk of the con-
 quest of her whole country. should
 Congress refuse to grant men and
 money for further operations in
 Mexico, Mr Polk might relax his
 demand of territory; but should
 he give up his grasp on the Cali-
 fornias, & new Mexico, his party
 would "damn him to everlasting fame"
 Thus poised between his duty []
 [] to his country, and his obliga-
 tion of his party, he will oscillate
 between the two, and become fixed
 only when the strongest is ascertained.
 To suppose he possesses that decision
 which a wise course would have ren-
 dered easy, would be granting him
 more rectitude than is often found
 in him who owes his place to pop-
 ular delusion. If Mr. Polk is an hon-
 orable man, his position, at the head
 of a party, who "feel power & forget
right," is an unfortunate one to say
 the least. Both for himself & his country.
 But the disgrace of his outrageous invasion
 of Mexico will never be wiped away, nor
 the blunder of Congress, in sustaining him
 in the first instance, forgotten.

Jany 30 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW;
 the day fair, but hazy at the close.
 Last night received a Letter from
 my son's wife Elizabeth, dated
 Burlington Jany 26th, inst. "all well,
 very well". and the weather there, much
 as it is here & no snow; the Lake still
 open. She notices a few cases of the
 small pox, at that place, but says she
 Arthur & Charles have been vaccinated
 some time ago. Perhaps, however, re
 vaccination, may be a good precaution
 especially in Charly, who was young
 when he was subjected to the process.
 The kine pock seems to be mitigated small
 pox, and when slight in its effects,
 may not be a certain security against
 the virus of the genuine small pox.
 She says she is in the practice of washing
 little Charles in cold water in the morn
 ing, and that it appears to be beneficial
 to him. Arthur, she says, is very busy
 and of course, they cannot visit as
 until next spring, when they think of
 coming to Deerfield, by the way of Glens
 falls, where they will see to the putting
 up the monumental stones to their sisters
 grave.

The cold The late cold day, was severe;--Burling
 day re ton the thermometer 27° below zero, at
 turned Middlebury 30° and at Rutland still low
 er. The Road gets along about as usual
 but it is intended to drive the work
 soon. To hear of the welfare of our
 friends is gratifying; and when we see
 them employed in laudable business, the grat
 ification is enhanced. May my friends
 always find such employments, and at
 the same time feel a regard for the welfare of
 others.

"Honor & shame, from no condition rise
 Art will your part, there all the honor lies"¹⁰

¹⁰ From Alexander Pope's *Poems of Sentiment: II. Life Greatness.*

Jany 31 Monday. M. fair, wind NE;
 The day fair; at night hazy.

The Gen
eral Court }
 In looking over the proceedings of our General Court we regret to see such a crowd of petition preferred some for the repeal or alteration of laws which have been listed by long experience. Among the petitions are many for short rail roads for the accommodation of a few contiguous towns, where the business would afford them no support.

Petition
prepared }
 All roads of this kind must prove futile, excepting a few on the vicinity great trading marts. Where a small number of towns are in want of [] way connecting with the great rail roads, graded ways for wagons &c. may be road substitutes. A rail road without sufficient business for its support, is miserable property and will ultimately be given up & the expense lost, as was the case with many of our Turnpike roads constructed a few years ago.

Short
railroads }
 This rage for short rail roads will at length subside, & the people return to their true interests, the cultivation of their farms. Would it not be a wise precaution, in the legislature, to require a subscription, in some degree [] the subscription of a road, to accompany petition for them? This would put at rest many futile projects, which now divert the people from their proper business. But as a considerable portion of the legislation are new members something must be brought forward, to show, their supreme knowledge over their predecessors: [] the constant fluctuation of our laws, an evil of no small magnitude. The business presented indicates a protracted session.

Their
futility }
 A re
midy
propos
ed }
 Fluctu
ation of
our laws }

Jany

31

[] }
 [] }

In Congress, the Mexican war is the chief topic, and the democratic plan of conquering the whole of Mexico, is no longer disguised, though not included in the first plan for seizing the two Californias & new Mexico. It now becomes the duty of the friends of order and justice, in the two houses, to defeat the vandalic design, by withholding men and money, from Mr. Polk; but we have little expectations that a majority in either house, will take this honorable course.

Death
of C
Shel
don }
 [] }

This day died Mr Charles Sheldon of a Consumption, at our Academy where he have kept the boarding room for the students—a worthy young man of 35 years of age. This is the fourth case, since the commencement of winter The fatal disease=the bane of the young and middle aged!

February (1848)

1.

Tuesday. M cloudy A snow fell about 8 inches deep, wind NW; yesterday not a patch of snow was seen; the day generally fair. Messrs. Tucker & Howard, send me No. 2 of the Albany Cultivator for February, containing (at page 47) an extract from a letter of mine, in relation to Deerfield Meadow Mr. Howard visited our town last summer & took some notes on our cultivation &c. The Cultivator is a cheap & useful publication (the prce 1 dollar pr. year) and should be patronized by every farmer.~

Alba
ny Cul
tivator }
 [] }

Small
pox }
 [] }

We hear of the small pox, from various parts of the country, supposed to be propagated by Irish immigrants, who carry the virus in

Feby
1

Vacci
nation}

Its []
[][]
[] }

Its ef
ficacy
estab
lished}

in their clothing. This should stimulate all who have not availed themselves of Dr. Jenner's great discovery, to submit to the process of vaccination:

and in all cases where the process was preformed in infancy, a re vaccination is a good precaution.

But we now and then find, even parents, indifferent to the subject, and suffer their children to be exposed to the fatal disease, which, we think, proceeds from a want of reflection or common discernment. Of the salutary effects of real vaccination, no more doubt remains, in the minds of men of science, than that gravitation exists, and causes the fall of bodies.

It is now extended to all parts of the civilized world, and, in some instances, to the uncivilized parts. Like other things it has its laws, which must not be disregarded. It for instance, it is found that vaccination in infancy, is not a security in adult age, than a renewal of the process becomes necessary; but still its benefit is not to be doubted.

It is a fact that since Dr. Jenners discovery the small pox has ceased to be the disease of the world, and we have become indifferent to its former ravages.

Let the practice of vaccination cease, we should soon see the dreaded destroyer return with relentless vigor; "Death his vast scythe with sweep enormous wield And shuddering pity quit the fester'd field"¹¹
And where contagion is rife, men

¹¹ Erasmus Darwin, *Of Rapaciousness*

Feby fearful of his fellow man, from apprehension of the lurking foe, shunning society to escape exposure to the secret malady. Contrast this with the confidence now felt in the efficacy of vaccination.

1

2 Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE and the day clear with moderate air and good sleighing. We may yet have a month or two of steady winter. But I avoid predictions and leave them to our moon philosophers, and Thomas' Almanac, which still gives us the signs that govern the human body, and of course, the times when to castrate their animals; and also to wean their babies, boil their soap, and sow their crops. Let us not, however, smile at the publisher for he evinces a knowledge of vulgar prejudices, & publishes the almanac to sell, like Peter Pinder's razors. Perhaps however it is as well for a portion of mankind to believe in this mimicry as to attempt to make them philosophers,

Weath
er } That an almanac should point out the time & quantity of an eclipse is as strange to them, as to predict the weather and other phenomena. But it is a fact that men who claim to be learned, still adhere to these prejudices. Instances of this I might cite: For remarks on this popular ignorance, see Arago on Comets page 60; translated by Favraeu.

Alma
nacs }

Vulgar
preju
dices }

Not con
fined
to the
unin
formed }

3 Thursday. M. fair, wind N.; the day fair, but hazy.

Joseph Henry Esqr. & wife, made me visit from Halifax, Vt. She is still lame in one of her limbs, otherwise well.

Feby
3
J. Hen
ry &
wife's
visit

Mr Henry brings me a bundle of Gales & Seaton's Washington papers, containing full proceedings of Congress, Speeches of the members, and much sound political matter of the Editors. From these papers we may learn the plans of Mr Polk and his party, without disguise. A more searching paper is not published within the U. States.

With such [] at the []

[] [] Mr Polks machinery schemes for "conquering a Peace" will not pass unnoticed, nor his demagogues be able to maintain their political delusions.

4

Friday. M. cloudy, wind N,
and the day the same & sprinkles of snow
This morn our friends Henry & wife
left us for Halifax. Such friendly
visits promote good feelings.

Direct
tax pre
posed
in Congress

In the Congress house of Representatives it is proposed to raise a tax of 6 millions by and assessment on the property of the people. Should this pass into a law, it will, as Mr Jefferson said, in another exigency, "Set the people to rights" and the war would at once end. Judge John M. Lean in a late letter just published, advised to this step as effectual. So long as money may be obtained by loans, the people will remain blind to the cost of military glory. I think the step is a wise one, though but a portion of the tax will ever reach the treasury. If people will have a war of invasion, they must pay the expense of it, and this without grumbling. Where war is thus felt. the people will inquire who were its originators; and these pseudo patriots will soon fall back into obscurity, to groan over their folly.

An ef
factual
remedy
in a
useless
war.

Feby 5

Saturday. M. Cloudy wind
 NE; last night 7 or 8 inches of snow
 fell; the day cloudy with some snow
 Winter now appears in its usu
 al garb.

The peace
 rumors }

The rumors of peace, circulated
 during the week, seem to be with
 out foundation, and the war hawks
 are still determined to press the war
 to the conquest of the whole of Mexico,
 but and serious obstruction lies
 in the course. Where is the money
to be found to defray the expense?

money
 want
 ed }

The people will hardly submit
 to direct taxation in an aggressive
 war: And if Mr. Polk and his
 party are forced to this step, their
 schemes are at an end, and
 the war will soon terminate.
 History will relate the disgraceful
 tale; and may future generations learn
 from it, the folly of the present
 administration. Folly rather
vandalism, I might have said
 more appropriately.

Mr. P.
 plans
 under
 stood }

In looking over the debates in Con
 gress, it appears that Mr. Polk's
 unconstitutional stride is well
 understood by the honorable mem
 bers, who have stripped off
 the disguise of his invasion
 of Mexico: and neither he, nor
 the sophistry of his supporters
 can create a doubt, in the minds
 of discerning men of the real design
 of the war: viz. to conquer the whole
 of the northern part of Mexico.

Feby
6

Sunday. M. cloudy, wind NW; some snow falling; the day continued cloudy throughout, and rather cold. with now and then a sprinkling of snow.

7

Monday. M. cloudy wind W; the day generally cloudy & cold.

Report
of our
Committee
on the
War

The Report of the joint Committee of the two houses of our Legislature, on the Mexican war, was made in the Senate last Wednesday—Mr Buckingham Chairman. It is a strong document irrefutable in its promises, and conclusive in its deductions.

Items
of the
Report

After defining the various kinds of war, in which nations engage it asks: “Is the war in which our Country is now engaged with Mexico, a war of defence, or is it a war of aggression?” The solution of this problem, they say, may be obtained by reference to facts. “The Committee would not assail, with language severe or disrespectful, the acts or declarations of the Chief Magistrate of the Union; but it is a fact, too notorious to be kept out of sight in this report, that the causes he has assigned for the commencement and prosecution of hostile ties on the acknowledged territory of Mexico, have been shown to be groundless or frivolous”

Mr Polk's
preten
sious
ground
less &
frivol
ous.

Mr. Polk has told us his object in the war was peace, and for that purpose his invading armies have carried the “olive branch” on their standards. The peace now sought, the Committee say, is like the peace which exists between the parties, when the lamb cases to struggle under the power of the lion, when the dove

Charac
ter of
his peace

Feby
7

Slave
ry one
design

Solemn
call on
Congress
to sus
pend
the war

A moral
power
ful
check

Hopes
of peace
[]

has done fluttering in the grasp of the vulture. That it is such a peace which our government proposes to make with Mexico: there is some cause apprehended, if not too much evidence to admit of doubt or disbelief. Touching slavery, the committee say; "They cannot doubt that it is the intention of the Authors of the war, and of those who are in favor of continuing it, to pursue the career of conquest for the acquisition of territory, and to acquire territory when on to extend, stabilize and perpetuate the institution of slavery.

In conclusion, the committee "call up on our Senators & Representatives in Congress, to avail themselves of every proper occasion to present to that body, a solemn and decided declaration of opposition to the war and the extension of slavery, and to do all in their power to maintain the principles herein expressed."

The remonstrance, though powerful, will probably have little effect on the war hawks in Congress, who have lost sight of national honor and justice.

A more powerful check is now to the war is now seen in that body—a direct tax on the people, which, if carried out, will soon put a quietus on the war spirit, and bring back the honest part of community to their interests and happiness.

If the proposal made of raising money were adopted for aggressive wars would be waged, and none of this description, long continued.

Prior to this war the friends of peace flattered themselves that the war spirit of civilized nations was subsiding, but the war has shown how little foundation there is for their benevolent hopes. The bubble of war, still has its attraction for young men, and the battle

Feby field is is the test of glory.
7 Should another thirty years
Appears } of peace produce a different race of
ground } men, then the philanthropist,
less } might boast of progress in the
useful arts and indulge in
the hopes of an improved race.

Fears } But alas, the present condi
express } tion of the world gives no prom
ed } ise of such a race; and it is
feared that nations will con
tinue to decide their disputes by:
the cannon's mouth, where jus
tice is silenced, and humanity gives
place to ferocity.

8 Tuesday, M. fair, wind N;
and the day clear with wind
NE. Sleighting is now good &
the snow of a convenient depth.

9 Wednesday. M fair, wind NE
and the day clear & cold.

The proceedings of Congress, and of
our General Court reach me very tardily
from the want of papers from Washington
and Boston. If the country papers
give us details, they are very stinted
and few of the extended speeches are
included.

10 Thursday. M. fair wind W.
the day clear & pleasant, though
windy in part.

11 Friday. M. fair, wind N:
last night very cold: the day
clear & wind changed to W & SW
air cold.

Fish } Winter fishing. Several of our young
ing } people are in the habit of fishing
with baited hooks cast in holes

Feby
11

Monta
gue
ponds } cut through the ice, & with considerable success, a party went to ponds in Montague a few days ago, & took several fine pickerel & some other fish, among which I saw a dace of nearly 3 lbs. These fish I believe are not often found in ponds, but in running waters

Large
Dace
caught } These ponds, surrounded by sandy plains, are found to contain very fine water, in which river fish are sometimes found.

Pickerel and great devourers of other fish, & perhaps were they extirpated from their ponds, other fish might be found in abundance.

Other
fish
there
found } Various other fish are found in these ponds, among which I am informed are perch & trout

About 60 years ago I visited these ponds, then surrounded by woods, and presenting a solitary feature which I have not forgotten

12

Saturday. M. cloudy, soon fair and wind NE; the day fair, but hazy and pretty cold.

Another week has elapsed without hearing any thing important from Mr Polks invading armies in Mexico, or from Congress. The ten regiment bill hangs in the Senate with doubtful success. In our General Court petitions are still flowing in, for various projects and among them utopian rail roads to the land of Nod. Far be from me

Con
gress }

General
Court }

Feby 12
Rail
road
projects}

a wish to cast reproach upon any scheme, intended for the benefit of the public, or that of individuals, where the public are not injured by them But when men give loose to their imaginations and wonder without star or compass for guides, it becomes a duty to interpose, and bring them back to their interest. That some of the present projects for rail roads are wild in the extreme, cannot be doubted Chinese walls and Egyptian pyramids have been constructed, and a rail road from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean may be accomplished, when a full population of our country may demand it. To the project of a rail road from Greenfield by a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles through Hoosac mountain, I would interpose no obstruction to the place could I perceive even a distant probability of accomplishing it. My interest would enlist me in its favor, were I not strongly impressed with its futility.

13

The wea
ther }

Sunday M. fair & cold. wind N.E. and a fair day followed. The weather is now truly that of winter, but the snow of moderate depth. Sun's declination about 14°S, approaching the equator. Should Mr Polk fail of conquer ing a peace" a few months it will again present a vertical sun to Gen. Scott

Re
marks}

and his troops, from which, it is [] they would be glad to be relieved. Their zeal of the most ardent, we think, has evaporated by our campaign of this kind. Hence we may [] for the absence of so many of Gen Scotts officers who have returned to their homes, to breath a more [] atmosphere; while the enlisted soldier doles away his life

Feby
13
 Condi
tion of
 enlisted
 soldiers } in counting the slow expiring
 days of his enlistment, without an
 expression of uneasiness at his condition
 of aversion to the service; and if he
 find himself in the midst of sweeping
 sickness in an unhealthy camp, he
 is not at liberty to seek a more healthy
 station, though one be found in the
 vicinity. In a word his duty is im
 plicit obedience to orders, nor is he
 at liberty, when certain death ap
 proaches to seek safety without the
 command of his officer. Were this
 condition of the soldier, made know
 by the recruiting officer, few indeed
 would be the names found on his
 roll. To this total ignorance of
 military service, Mr Polk is indebted
 for the wild flow of volunteers, in
 his invasion of Mexico: and may our
 young men learn from the losses which have
 occurred by battles & sickness, that the
 peaceful arts are their proper employ
 ments; and that nations that forget
 the rules of justice & humanity cannot pros
 per.

14 Monday M. cloudy, wind NE
 and the day soon fair & continued the same
A case of small pox. A young lady
 of this village having recently visited Hart
 ford, was there exposed to the small pox
 and soon after her return home, the
 infection appeared. She had been vacc
 anated at Hartford, after her exposure,
 but it failed of its protective effect.
 This failure I leave for our physicians to
 explain. We now hear of varioloid which
 Mr Webster defines a disease like the small
pox; and if it be like the small pox, why
 not give it its legitimate name?

Small
pox
a case } of.

Feby
14

Re
marks
on the
term va
rioloid

Quest
ions
to Phy
scians

Call
of 2
young
men
painters
& draw
ers of
views

View of
the old
house

The varioloid, I am informed by physicians will communicate the genuine small pox, If so, why multiply terms?

Would not the terms moderate and violent small pox, be more appropriate? In the spring of 1777 I was inoculated with the small pox, and had it very lightly, Was not this, the varioloid, in the true sense of the word? But I have since been amongst the disease with impunity.

Dr Jenners grand discovery of the preventive effects of the vaccine virus, is still important, and all prudent people will avail themselves of it.

Questions to Physicians: Is the varioloid a preventive to the small pox, and vaccination to the varioloid? A prio ri we should say, both.

The occurrence of a case of small pox in our village, will, I trust, induce many to vaccinate, who have expressed indifference to the subject merely from inattention to its importance~

Two young men John Sawin & Otto C. Ficht, the former of Greenfield, & the latter of New-York City, made me a call, and exhibited a drawing they had just taken, of our old Indian house, The view was taken from the North room of Augustus Wells' house, & included a view of Dr Williard's house on the opposite side of the street. The view was painted on a pasteboard sheet and I think is pretty good. They practice also artist and Fresco painting. Ficht says, that from a topographic plan of this part of the village, exhibiting the location of the buildings, & elevation with this style, he could, without difficulty know the whole into a perspective view

If

Feby
14

If the mode proposed to Ficht
be practicable, we may yet obtain
a good view of the old Fort and
included buildings, at the time the
village was destroyed by the French
and Indians, in 1704. The only dif-
ficulty in the case, is a want of an
exact knowledge of the position and ex-
tent of the fort, which we know was
a stockade work, probably with
some flanking parts for the defence of
the long curtains. A view of this kind
representing the houses on fire, would be
an interesting object, We have such a
delineation in prospect.

15

Tuesday. M fair, wind NW
and pretty cold. at sun rise; the day
clear and cold.

General
Court]

The report of the joint Committee on our State
Senate & of the House, on on the Mexican
war & slavery, passed the former on Wednesday
the 2d instant, by yeas & nays, 35 to 1. This
Honorable unit, from Hampden, is
true & faithful to his party. In the House
no doubt, every democrat will vote in
the negative, and it is well that their
names should be recorded, that the
people should recur to them when cal-
led to the ballot boxes. In the Southern
States the people find a motive in the
war, slavery wants new territory, and
northern democrats must support it.
“right or wrong”, or prove [] to
their trust.

16

Wednesday. M. fair, wind West; the
day clear & a bright sun.
The Springfield Daily Republican of the
of the 15th instant, inserts the following

Feby
16

Early
plan
of Mr
Polk

Said to
be de
veloped

Not
improb
able

Remarks
on it

from the N. York Tribune communicated from Washington, which the Editor thinks is substantially true:

"I have just learned something farther in relation to the early amiable intentions of this administration toward Mexico. It has come out in evidence before the Committee on military officers, in the Senate, that Capt. Gillespie of the army was dispatched in 1845 to Col. Fremont then in Upper California, with a letter in cipher, directing the Colonel on to shape his course there as to excite a rebellion against the authority of Mexico, of which perhaps he could take advantage so as to effect the independence of California, and prepare her for annexation to their country."

Whether proof has been found by the Committee, that such a letter was sent to Col. Fremont, is not certain; but that this has been the plan & design of Jacobin-democracy, from the time of the administration of Mr Monroe, to the present, is too evident to admit of a moment's doubt in the minds of those who have carefully watched its progress.

And though checked in a degree, during the administrations of J.Q. Adams Jackson and Van Buren, it revived under that of Vice-President Tyler; and Mr Polk was elected to the Presidency to complete the scheme. Hence the orders to General Taylor to advance from the Nueces and invade the Mexican territory, is at once explained.

Any

Feby 16 Any doubts entertained on this subject evinces a blindness, which no sane mind can harbor for a moment.

Other plans of democracy } The present view of this democracy is the conquest of the whole of Mexico under the pretence of indemnity. Now is this all: the same party have fixed an eye on the Island of Cuba if not on the other West India Islands. The British colonies on our north and northeast quarters, are less inviting, but they at length, are to submit to the fraternal hug. South America may remain in her present condition provided she is duly submissive to our strides. But the time may come will come, when retributive justice shall rouse from its repose and teach us that other nations have rights as well as our own, and that to be prosperous & respected, a nation must adhere strictly to the rules of morality, benevolence & humanity.

West Indian Islands in view }

Mr Polks instructions to Col. Fremont } In the present war with Mexico it would be unjust to ascribe the whole of the turpitude to Mr Polk, since it is known that the plan was formed long prior to his call from obscurity. He is, in fact, but the agent of his party and was selected to carry out their plan. If however in his zeal to answer the designs of his party, he in fact instructed Col. Fremont to endeavor to excite a rebellion against the authorities of Mexico, as asserted by the writer of the note in the Tribune, he is clearly particeps criminis, and justly deserves

the decided reproach from all friends
of our country. Mr Polk, it is believed
expected to obtain possession of north Mex
ico without much opposition from
the Mexican government; but his claim
to the whole country under pretence of
indemnity, was hardly anticipated.
this probably is an after thought.
with which his party, he will know
would readily comply. Whether Con
gress will afford further aid to his
measures is to be seen.

17 Thursday. M fair, wind North
and cold air; the day continued
fair & clear
In our house of representative, the
Mexican war bill, as it has passed the
Senate, came up on Tuesday last
Mr Bryant of Barre proposed some
amendments & delivered a speech of about
an hour, in justification of the war & of
the administration, not forgetting the
treasonableness of opposing either.
Mr Dwight of Springfield followed &
spoke against the war, contending that
it was wicked at its origin, and wicked
in its object, and he gave a deserved
castigation to the whig members of Con
gress who voted men and money for
the support of Mr Polk's nefarious inva
sions. He said "If there be guilt in its
commencement, he confessed that the
Whigs of the last Congress were involved
in it, with the exception of the frontier
glorious & immortal men who voted against
the War Bill; the Whigs sanctioned it,
and lied it into existence. If democratic
hands are embraced in it; the dammed
spot of blood was also on the Whig hand."
After other remarks, he said "No Mas
sachusetts man will ever again vote for
a war because to oppose a war is unpopular"

Mr Dwights
speech
in our
Legislature

His lash
for certain
Whig mem
bers of
Congress

Feby
16

Re
marks
on

17

Feby
17

Mr Dwi
ght to
contin
ue

The Whig
vote in
Congress
a blunder

18

This was a severe cut for some of our
of our accommodating members, in Congress.
who lacked the firmness of unyielding
patriots. Let them be remembered.

After speaking, towards a hour, the house
adjourned, and Mr Dwight was to continue
his argument, when the subject should
be called up, which it is supposed, will
be on this day. The vote of the Whigs in
Congress, to which Mr Dwight alludes, was
an anomaly which can be explained on
no other ground than their inattention
to the subject, or a more criminal neglect of
duty.

In extenuation of the blunders, it is
said Gen. Taylor, in executing the or
der of the President, plunged himself
into a dangerous position without
a supply of provisions for his troops.
Be it so: But what was his plain
course but to have fallen back to his
magazines at Point Isabelle, which
he at length accomplished; but the
error was a second advance prior to
a declaration of war; and when
Congress added to their blunder by grant
ing to Mr Polk 50 thousand volunteers to
carry out his designs, they fell into the
snare set for them, and he triumphed in
his unconstitutional course. To find
such men in our Legislature, as Mr Dwight
is cheering to the patriot; and we
trust that the effects of democracy
to [] over Mr Polk's designs will
be ineffectual.~

Friday m. fair, wind NE, and cold
air; the day very clear and the
bright sun dissolves the snow & some of
the roads are bare.

In the evening recd a letter from son Arthur

Feby
18
Letter
from
my Son
at Bur
lington

dated Burlington the 15th instant informing that all are well and that he & family intend to visit us in May next, by the passage of Lake George, and wishes information in relation to the old military operations in that quarter; requesting also a copy of my Antiquarian Researches; says he has purchased Buckingham's Travels in America 9 Vols; a beautiful work with plates which he intended to bring with him on his visit to Deerfield.

19

Saturday, m fair, wind NE and most of the day clear.

20

Sunday. M. cloudy, wind N the day continued cloudy; and inch or 2, of snow last night. During most of the day moderate rain fell.

21

Monday M. fair, and a brisk W. wind prevailed; the day fair and windy. Snow thaws Made up a bundle, consisting of two books and a letter of 12 pages for son Arthur at Burlington Vt. to be forwarded by Richard C. Arms who leaves tomorrow. The letter contains notices of the old military operations about Lake George and the vicinity, which he intends to visit next May. No part of our country is more interesting to a man of military taste than this, extending from Stillwater on the Hudson, to Crown Point on Lake Champlain.

Letter
to my
Son
with a
bundle

Feby
22

Rail
road
routes
in Vt.

Tuesday M Cloudy, wind SW
 the snow much reduced our
 roads bare; the day cloudy &
 some snow fell. R. Arms sat for Burlington
 to join Arthur's Corps of Engi
 neers. He says a plan and
 profile of the whole route of the
 rail road from Burlington to
 Bellows-falls is now with the
 artists at Boston, and prom
 ises to send me a copy when
 finished. The two roads
 from Burlington to Boston
 will be rival routes, and which
 will command the business
 of Lake Champlain is to be seen.
 The Rutland route is said to
 be the shortest, and of course,
 the most direct. Can both
 be maintained? Doubtful to say
 the least~

Lead
pipe
water

Water from Lead Pipes
 A Gentleman at Worcester, says Duri
 ing the last year he has been in the
 use of water pumped from a well through
 a lead pipe, and the result has been
 days and weeks of most intense suf
 fering; and he cautions people against
 the use of water that has been in contact
 with lead. In this part of our vil
 lage water is brought in such pipes
 but, as yet, I have heard of no ill
 effects from it. Perhaps when the
 water is kept constantly running, the
 deleterious effects from the lead, may
 be less injurious, than when occasionally
pumped from wells. The hint deserves
 consideration.

Se

Re
marks

Feby
22

Table
furni
ture
former
ly

See Park's Chemical Catechism
 page 337, when he shows the
 effects of lead on water, and how
 to detect it. I have long been
 suspicious of drinking water from
 these pipes, especially when it
 remains a long time in them, or
 in lead vessels. Formerly our
 eating tables were furnished
 with pewter basons, plates, platters & spoons
 were they not unwholesome? The
 old wooden furniture, I think, was
 preferable Modern chemistry has
 taught us the effects of metallurgic
oxids upon the human body and
 metallic pipes may at length be laid
 aside. As deleterious and
 the old fashioned well with its
 sweep, pull and wooden bucket be
 found preferable to all of our hy
 draulic machinery: thus it some
 times happens without boasted im
 provements.

23

Predic
tions
of the
weath
er

Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.
 sun seen before noon. PM fair
 and bright sun, dissolving the snow.
 & some of the hills are bare.
 "An Astronomer in Philadelphia, (say
 the papers) predicts that March will be
 colder than any month this winter."
 I am tired with such vulgar preju
 dices, the results of a total ignorance
 of the solar system & the laws which
 govern it. Because an Astronomer can
 calculate eclipses & the places of the
 heavenly bodies, the mass men suppose
 he may predict the weather. For
 the effects of popular ignorance, see Arago on
 Comets page 60 Farris []

Feby
23 Rumors from Washington say
that General Scott has made a treaty
of peace with the Mexicans, and sent
it to Mr Polk, for his acceptance.

Peace }
[] } If the treaty cedes to the U. States
the Californias, New Mexico and
all the territory north and east of
the Rio Grand, it may be acceptable
to Mr Polk and his party; for this
beyond a doubt, was, their design
on first invading of Mexico.

Re } marks } This treaty accomplished, Congress
will next parcel out the territory in
Districts of states, convenient for
the institutions of our Southern breth
ren, where the colored man
may continue to wear his chains
for centuries, while other parts of
Mexico may remain in repose
provided they enter into bonds to
keep the peace, submit to our
future encroachment, where ever
we deem and additional
territory, always remembering
that their existence as a nation,
depends on the consent of our
democracy.

24 Thursday. M. cloudy, wind NW
and the day occasionally fair.

The proceedings of our General Court
reach me very tardily, often 3, 4 or 5 days
by the river. This is vexations to one resid
ing near a rail road on which daily
passengers arrive from Boston.

Mr } Adams } By the last accounts from Congress we
are informed that John Q. Adams has had
a 2d shock of the pulsy, which may end
[] his course of [].

Feby Friday M. fair, wind N.E.
 25 air cold; the day clear, and
 the snow much diminished
 Death } The Springfield daily of this
 of Mr } day, announces the Death
 Adams } of John Q. Adams on Wednesday
 evening last., at Washington
 and Majr. } Mr Davis of Massachusetts, pro
 Webs } nounced an [] on the deceased
 ter } in the Senate. In the House
 several members spoke on event.
 His age is stated at 81.

and Majr. } The same paper stated the Death
 Webs } of Major Webster, son of Daniel
 ter } Webster, at Mexico-While we la
 ment his loss, we cannot but
 regret his indiscretion in offering
 his services in a sickly climate in
 an unjust & unnecessary war. A war
 which will darken the pages of
 our history, and mark with
 blood the hands of its contrivers.

26 Saturday. M. fair, wind NE and
 the day fair & pleasant; wind charged to SW
 Mexi } Gen. Scotts treaty with the Mexi
 can } can Government has reached Washington
 treaty } It cedes to the U. States the whole, or
 nearly the whole, of North Mexico, which
 Mr Polk had in view, when he or
 dered Gen. Taylor to invade the country
 but whether his democrats will be
 contented without the whole of Mex
 ico is uncertain. To render the treaty
 acceptable to them, an article of the fol
 wing tenor may be required: Viz
 Mexico in no case to make a treaty
 of

Feby 26 of alliance with any nation of Europe, nor to cede to them any part of their country, "without our consent" Let other neighboring nations learn their fate from that of Mexico~

27 Sunday. M. fair, wind W.
the day occasionally cloudy.
Our Clergyman noticed the death of Mr Adams at Washington, in the forenoon discourse. This I think very proper since his political life has been so [] free from errors. A critical Biog raphy of the patriot would afford useful lessons for posterity; and it is believed he has left numerous Essays in manuscript; worthy of the public eye, and would serve as a History of his own time. It is hoped some qualified gentleman will look over his manuscripts, and submit the important parts to the press
This day I saw a letter from David S. Hoyt of the 15th of January, directed to his Father's family, from the City of Mexico, in which he says he enjoys perfect health, and is writing in one of the halls of Montezuma. He notices two or three recent expedi tions of detachments, but no fighting This season of the year no doubt is fine at Mexico; but I fear the ef fects of a vertical sun. Nothing of Gen Scotts treaty with Mexico, is said probly not then known there.

Feby
28

Monday M. fair, wind NE , the day became cloudy afternoon and snow fell

A pamphlet from C.O. Boutille

My faithful friend, Mr Charles O. Boutelle, sends me Mr Bach's Report of the Sea Coast survey showings of that work for the year, ending October 1847, franked by Danl. P. King M.C.

29

Tuesday M. fair, wind NE the day blustering & cold wind; West wind Last night 5 or 6 inches additional snow which gives a good run for sleighs &c.

Report on the sea coast Survey by Mr Bache

From the Report of Mr Bache we have a pretty full account of the progress of the work for the year past, and it gives me much satisfaction to learn that a work of so much science is in operation The principal points on the coast, are fixed by [] triangulation, & the intermediate parts filled up by Plain Table surveys. An accurate map of the sea coast with the shoals rocks & Islands, it is hoped will be the result of the surveys.

A dangerous shoal southward of Nantucket has been discovered and partially surveyed This shoal, it is supposed, has caused the loss of several vessels, while it was unknown to mariners.

In the operations on shore, I find that my ingenious friend, Charles O. Boutelle acts a conspicuous part and think his talents, genius & experience are duly appreciated by Mr Bache the superintendent. Mr Bache's estimate of expense for this year is 165.000 dollars. Can Mr Polk spare this sum from his war charges? Shooting and plundering Mexicans he may deem of paramount importance.

Feby 29 This method of Surveying, called Geodesic, admits the newest instruments and observations, as well as able mathematicians & astronomers. For a brief Essay on Geodesic surveying, see section 1st Vol. 2 of Huthens Mathematics, Col. Mudge's Account of the trigonometrical survey in England and other authors there mentioned. Aided by these works, and the accurate instruments constructed in Europe our Geodesic operations, it is believed, will not fall short of the accuracy of the English & French mathematicians

March

1 Wednesday M. fair wind West, and cold air; the day mostly fair & cold, with a winter aspect. Sun's Declination 8°S (about) If Genl Scotts peace with the Mexicans fails he & his army, will soon find a vertical sun to deal with, which I think they would be glad to avoid.

2 Thursday. M. fair, & cold, wind N.E.; the day PM generally clouded & wind N. We learn (per chance) that the Committee appointed at the last years session to revise the militia Laws of the Commonwealth has made a Report of 91 pages. Is there no friend in the Legislature who will send me a copy? The subject has heretofore occupied much of my attention. And perhaps I might propose some amendments. An efficient plan may be adopted; but, it is feared, the members of our Legislature, have not given it their attention which the subject demands. A proper military instruction is requisite for internal peace

Militia Laws }

March 3 Friday M cloudy & snowy, wind N.E, Several inches (4 or 5) fell last night; the day continued cloudy & some snow

Gulf Stream

In the appendix to Mr. Bache's Report, we find the following:

"A Bottle was picked up, on the 27th June last, on the coast of Kerry, Ireland, containing the following memorandum: Mr Spotwood, M.R.G., Coast survey, US being Washington, July 31, 1846; latitude 37 degrees, 39 minutes North; longitude 69 degrees West. GM Bache Lieutenant Commanding, Gulf Stream" N.Y. Herald, Ship news, August 23, 1847.

Conveys a bottle to Ireland

Re marks

That the Gulf Stream extended from Cape Florid, N. easterly to Ireland has long been known, but its velocity is not known. Probably it varies, with the prevailing winds. The existence of such a current in the Atlantic, is a curious fact in hydrography, and is well explained by the effects of the trade winds May not the waters flowing from the rivers into the Gulf of Mexico add to the effect?

Longitude by Telegraph

In the Report of Mr Bach, the practicability of determining the difference of longitude of places, by Morse's magnetic telegraph is investigated, and he thinks it may be relied on with a good degree of accuracy. (See page 19) If the spark is instantaneous, the only difficulty is in the inaccuracy of the observer and the time keepers or clocks; and the same difficulties will occur in all observations on the heavenly bodies. The determining longitude is now brought to considerable perfection by chronometers & this one much with surprising accuracy.

March 3 In short, the whole of the processes of this survey are of a curious nature, and they may show to what perfection man may arrive by the application of the laws of nature and mathematical deduction; the latter, a writer observes, "the only one unerring [] which God had vouch'd safe to man."~

4 Saturday. M. fair, wind W. and very cold; the day continued fair & cold wind SW PM We have now a considerable coat of snow on the ground, and as snow is a slow conductor of calorie, it may prevent radiation from the earth, and of course increase the coldness of the air. "It is affirmed that while the temperature of the air in Siberia has been 70° below the freezing point, the surface of the earth protected by its covering of snow, has seldom been colder than 32°" May not this fact account for the increase of cold, which we observe after a fall of considerable snow? When snow lies deep upon the ground, it is a fact that the frost in the soil entirely disappears, which must be caused by action of internal heat in the earth. Hence then, deep snow, must be productive of cold weather. But however cold the atmosphere may be the frost penetrates but a few feet below the earths surface; and the waters of our rivers, ponds, & lakes are always of a temperature above the freezing point, otherwise they would become congealed masses. Hence it appears that in our coldest weather the mercury at 30° below zero, fish and other aquatic animals exist in water at a temperature at least 62 above that low point—temperature perhaps congenial to their nature. Thus we see an adoption of means to ends.

Effects
of snow
on tem
perature

Fish &
other
aquatic
animals

March
5 Sunday M. broken clouds and blus-
tering wind at W; the day generally
fair & windy. truly winter weather

6 Monday M. cloudy; wind SW the
day generally cloudy; wind varied to W.
Our annual town meeting for the choice
of town officers for the ensuing year,
My Son Arthur sends me Report of
the Directors of the Rutland & Burlington
Rail Road Company to the Stockholders of
in annual meeting. Rutland Jany 12, 1848,
from which it appears that the work
is progressing under favorable circumstances
and that over 90 miles of the road is
expected to be in readiness for the cars
by the 1st day of January 1849, and
the remainder at somewhat later
period, during the same year.

Rut
land
Rail
road }
7 Tuesday. m. fair, wind variable
but settled in the S.W. The proceed
fair & clear, and the sun made an
impression on the snow.
Our farmers have commenced send-
ing the stall fed cattle to Brighton
in the rail road cars. a rapid
mode of conveyance and perhaps
a cheap one.

8 Wednesday. m fair, wind South;
the day fair with mild air.
The Report on the Mexican War as
it passed in the Senate of this Common-
wealth, has been accepted in the House
167 to 72, strictly a party vote. Do these
72 democrats honestly believe that Mr
Polk had any other [] views than conquest
when he commenced the war? The intelli-
gent part of the people will decide.

Mexi
can War
report
in the
General
Court }
}

March 9

Thursday. M cloudy with rain and West wind; the day continued cloudy & wind changed to NE

Rutland & Burlington Rail-road Company. From the Report noticed in last page, it appears that the Capital stock of said Company is one million of dollars sufficient to complete said road, and furnish all necessary apparatus for a conveyance, which shall be divided into shares of 100 dollars each, and shall be deemed personal property, and transferable in such a manner as said Corporations shall by their by-laws direct. The company shall have power to construct a branch rail road, at or near the vicinity of Vergennes to the navigable waters of Lake Champlain.

By the Treasurer Report it appears that the money received on assessments to the 31st of December 1847=\$356,675.50
 And the payments to same =240,258.11
 Balance in deposit =116,417.39
 The road extends through a pretty bare country except the height of land at Mount Holley, where the descent to the east is somewhat abrupt, but I am informed is easily reduced.
 That part of the rail-road, from Vergennes to Connecticut River, was formerly much traversed by the Indians in their incursions on our frontiers, and our scouting parties sometimes travelled the same routs, then wholly covered with woods. The men of those days were a hardy & resolute race, who were ready to plunge into the woods, infested with savages whose pastimes were blood & carnage. The scouts sent out were generally few in number, with []

State of the Treasury

Old scouts on the frontier

March
9

Their
aru
ous ser
vices

John
Hawks
route
in 1748

Indian
paths

Mount
Holley
or height
of Land

at their backs, and they might camp on the snow or ground. In their marches they were sometimes guided by the compass, and at all times liable to ambuscades and sudden attacks. These scouts often [] the wood between the Connecticut & Lake Champlain, in the present state of Vermont and the route from No 4 (Charlestown) up Black river to Otter Creek was unknown, Mount Holley, was called the Height of Land, over which was an Indian path much frequented.

In 1748, in the month of February, John Hawks of this town, commissioned by Governor Shirley, out for Canada via No 4, accompanied by Lt. Mathew Clesson John Taylor and a French prisoner Pierre Rambont, taken near Northfield on the 11th they left No 4, and proceeded up Black river upon the ice, and over Mount Holly to Otter Creek, and down that creek to the great fall, and thence to Crown Point. On their return from Canada, the next spring, they left the lake about 7 miles "this side" of Crown point, and travelling 28 miles S.E by S. came to Otter Creek, 5 miles below the great falls, where they cross the creek: all of which was good traveling Hence they proceeded S by E 35 miles when they came to the black river, and all the way on a beaten tract ye Indians made in heading down upon the western frontiers," which 35 miles they judged will make a good cart road, without any thing more than cutting away away the trees that are fallen into the path, exciting a steep hill, just before we came upon the last mentioned stream. There we tracked in the direct course to the north of Williams river, leaving the common road on black river."

The return route of Hawks party after striking Otter creek was nearly on the route of the rail-roads. One hundred years ago. In 1759 & '60 a road was cut out & made from C point to No 4, or Charlestown.

March
9

Histori
cal
notices }

During the war of 1755 scouts were frequently sent out on this and other routes in the state of Vermont.

After the capture of Ticonderoga & Crown point by Gen. Amherst, in 1759 and the surrender of Canada to the English in 1760, hostilities ceased in Vermont until the commencement of the war of our Revolution in 1775. when settlements had extended over many parts of Vermont.

10

Friday. m. cloudy, wind NE:
about 2 inches of snow fell last night
during the day, continued cloudy with some []
but fair at night! wind W.

Letter
from
an old
friend }

An old friend, David Stebbins Esq of Northampton, writes me a letter on my old age, with sundry inquiries in relation to my health &c. Formerly I was acquainted with many people in Northampton, and my mother being from that town, I had several connexions there; but a new race has come upon the stage with, whom I have no acquaintance. The families of Stro[n]gs, Hunts, Lymans, Pomeroy's, Tappans, Burcks & Clapps and some others are well recollect. Northampton has sustained a respectable rank among the towns on the Connecticut, and has always commanded the particular notice of travelers. My thanks are due to Mr Stebbins for his calculation, remarks & observations on the octogeny.

11

Saturday m. fair, wind N.E.;
the day fair and pleasant

of the }
Peace }

Up to this time we have nothing certain of Gen. Scotts treaty with Mexico. Probably it will be sent back with proposed amendments. In the mean time our Army may have to sustain another campaign under the vertical rays of the sun in the sickly season. Poor fellows! little did they think of sweeping death, when they left their homes to kill Mexicans.

March 11 My Daughter, Isabaella Bry
 Arrival of Daughter Isabella } ant arrived in the afternoon
 from Chicopee Falls, She say there
 is no snow at Springfield, while
 we have 4 or 5 inches—a variation
 hardly to be explained by half a
 degree of latitude. Isothermal lines
 in mountainous countries, are very
 sinuous, having little coincidence
 with the lines of latitude: in level coun-
 tries the variation is less. In all places
 the temperature depends much on
 the height of the land above ocean
 12 Sunday. m. fair, wind N.W.;
 soon became cloudy, and so continued
 until afternoon, when the sun appeared.
 but most of the day continued cloudy.
 with a winter aspect.~
 Remi nisces } Upwards of 144 years have elapsed
 of our town } since this town was sacked by a force
 of French & Indians from Canada, un-
 der the command of Hertel de Rouvill
 and Revd. John Williams and most of
 his people were carried off to that French
 Province, a distance of about 300 miles
 through what is now the state of Vermont
 the snow then from 2 to 3 feet in depth
 What a scene of distress! Seldom re-
 curred too by our young people. One
 of the captives, Jonathan Hoyt, my grand-
 father, I have seen in his decreped old
 age, who died here in 1779, aged 92,
 and about 16 at the time of his capture
 His father David Hoyt was captured at
 the same time and died near Cowass
 on the march, by starvation.
 My Great Grandfather, David Hoyt
 was a son of Simon, or, Nicholas
 Hoyt of Windsor, Ct. among the 1st set
 tlers at that place, came to Hadley
 & afterwards to Deerfield, where he
 resided until the town was destroyed in 1704 as above related. He had
 several sons, one of whom, David
 was killed in the Meadow fight that year

March 12 My Great Grandfather's name is found in the list of men who were with Capt. Turner, in the Falls fight at Gill, 1676, then I suppose an inhabitant of Hadley. At the time of his capture at Deerfield he bore the title of Deacon. Most of his family was captured with him and one son (Ebenezer) never returned, from Canada.

13 Monday. M. fair, wind West, the day partially cloudy, and some thawing of the snow.
Wrote a letter to Daniel Stebbins Esqr. at Northampton in reply to his of the 8th instant, in which I expressed my dissent from the dogma of hereditary depravity to which I was led by some of his remarks.

14 Tuesday. M. fair, wind W. & cold and the day proved generally cloudy.
We are informed that the treaty of peace with Mexico has been ratified in the Senate at Washington, with some modifications. Mexico may now continue a nation, provided she is submissive to our democracy, and is always ready to give up further territory when demanded, under the international law of annexation. The boundary prescribed in the treaty, may be considered as a sort of fluent, subject, not to fluxcany rules, but to democratic avarice.
The boundary with treaty, sets off to the US nearly the whole territory that Mr Polk had on view when he commenced the war by his invasion.

The treaty }

March
15 Wednesday. m. fair, wind W. & cold morn
the day fair & cold.

State
of the
votes
on the
treaty }
The votes of the Senate on the treaty
of peace with Mexico stand 37 ayes &
15 nays; among the latter is Daniel
Webster & 27 other Whigs & 7 democrats
our John Davis is among the ayes.

Mr. Webster in
the ne
gative }
Mr Webster, it is presumed, can
give the cause of his vote, but it
he was right. Mr Davis was wrong
and this is the question to be solved
That Mexico has been forced to cede
her vast northern territory is true.

Que
ries }
But did Mr Webster suppose a more
just treaty one could be obtained by con
tinuing the war under our present
administration? The democratic votes
among the war-party in the negative may be explained
by their determination to obtain the
whole of Mexico; but this could not
have been the object of Mr. Webster. To
hope we shall see his reason, for his
vote, and if they are found substan
tial, what shall he say of John Davis'?

The
next
grasp }
Had the Rio Grand been made our South
and West boundary, nearly the whole
object of the war would have been
defeated, and the whole of democracy
been opposed to it. In one partic
ular they have departed from their
original plan. Viz. in leaving to Mexi
co the peninsula of California; but

this will be an easy acquisition
when wanted. Cuba is undoubt
ably the next step, and then such
other Islands as may be convenient.
The British provinces, on the north
and northeast may now prepare
for annexation. The remaining part
of Mexico, may be left for the next
grasp, and also Central America.

March
15

English
claim
on Cu
ba

I have since the next object of our democratic cupidity, could be the annexation of the Island of Cuba to our Union. But before this step is taken it would be wise to look to the condition of the Island. In the debates of the English Parliament now in session, Lord George Bentwick proposed that in consequence of the debt of £45,000,000 due to Great Britain, by Spain, for which the Island of Cuba stood pledged, that "we should foreclose the mortgage, seize upon the Island & emancipate the slaves there, and by that means extinguish slavery for ever, in the archipelago of the West Indies." Should this step be taken, or should Spain cede the Island to Great Britain, and intruding democracy will find an obstruction to its course, in carrying out the plan of Mr. Monro, as recently recommended by Mr. Polk, whose "olive branch, held out to all nations" would hardly prevent a war with England, and not exactly of the character of that with Mexico.

16

Gen.
Scott

Thursday. M. fair, wind N.W. and very cold air; the day continued fair, but rather cold for the season. wind changed to N.E. It appears by the accounts the Major General Butler is commander of our Army in Mexico, and the position of General Scott is a mystery for Mr Polk to explain. The General, we are informed is to be arraigned before a Court martial on charges preferred by some of his subordinates. And who are to constitute the Court? Of course some of Mr Polk's new fledged Generals and Colonels

who

March
16
His Court
martial? }

"who never set a squadron in the field
nor of Battles known more than spinsters."

Gen. Scott, it appears, was aware
of this, when he took the command
of the army in the invasion of Mexi-
co; but perhaps he though his "enemies
at home" would relax their hostility
after fighting disparately in their cause,
Gen Scott may now learn that
military discipline has no affect,
to democratic government; and
that under it the post of honor
is a private station.

17

Friday. M. fair, cold & wind NE;
the day very clear, but rather
cold. Our roads are becoming
bare notwithstanding the con-
tinuation of the cold weather, and
wheel carriages are generally used
for conveyance.

My son's
expected } visit

My Son and family, I am indi-
rectly informed, intend to visit me
in the course of the present month.
instead of next May. I fear the roads
will be bad, and the passage unpleas-
ant. Probably at this time there may
be good sleighing in Vermont, but
it cannot long continue after the
sun's declination becomes Northern.
Their route I suppose will be by
Rutland, Mount Holley & Bellows
falls to Greenfield by stage, --- a
tardy conveyance for rail-road trav-
lers who move 20 or more, miles
per hour, and send intelligence
by an electric shock.

18

Saturday M. cloudy, wind N.E.
the day continues
Col. Bryant arrived at noon from
Chicopee falls.

Col Bry-
ant }

March 18 An officer of a volunteer Regt. from Kentucky writing from Mexico Feby 1, 1848, says, "The loss by sickness in the army is immense, and if the good Christian fathers and mothers of the United States could witness and agony of their sons, in this far distant and inhospitable land, they would cry out with one voice for peace; and there would not be an honest advocate for another invasive war for half a century to come. I do someday hope an honorable peace will be conducted, and a speedy termination put to the calamities of this unnecessary war."

In the evening my Son, wife and little Charles arrived from Burlington via Bellows falls.

19 Sunday M. fair, wind NE the day continued fair, cloudy wind SW

Another Revolution in France,

This day we learn that a bloody revolution had happened in Paris; Louis Phillip has escaped to England with the Royal family, after abdicating his throne. The national guard, once with the people on the 23d of February, and the Palis Royal was attacked and within half an hour fallen to their possession. Five hundred lives were lost in the battle & shortly the Tuileries was stormed. A Republic on the model of U States is proposed. The Royal throne was carried through the streets, and afterwards probably burnt. We may now look for the boody scenes as the reign of terror and perhaps for another war in Europe, in which we may be involved. The above new war brought to New York by the Steam Cam bra which left Liverpool Feby 27th ultimo

Another French Revolution

If

If this Paris movement be ac
 March [] to, by the people of France,
 19 the nation will again be
 come the disturbers of the peace
 Reflec of Europe, if not that of the world.
 tions } The true policy of the other Govern
 on ments of Europe, is to avoid any
 interference in the struggle. But if the
 same volcano formed, as in the former
 revolution, shall burst upon the world
 it will be difficult, perhaps im
 possible to keep clear from its
 sweeping lava. Maratts, Dan
tons & Robespierres still be found
 to accelerate its flow, and to
 drench the Country in the blood
 of its best citizens. May the nations
 of Europe, as well as the U.
 States, be saved from the hor
 ors of another French Revolution.

20 Monday. m. fair, wind S.W.
 the day cloudy: sun at the Equator
Col. Bryant sat out for home
 in the morning cars: Some rain
 at night.

21 Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind NW
 the day or PM, fair
 Depos This day deposited in the saving
 ite of Bank at Greenfield \$400 at 5 per
 Cash cent per annum, as per a small
 printed Book, delivered me, signed
 by Franklin Ripley Treasurer. My son
 Arthur transacted the business.

22 Wednesday. m. fair, wind NE
 and day fair.
 My son sat out for Boston by
 the Cars, on rail road business.

23 Thursday. M. cloudy, with snow
 falling, wind N; the day generally cloudy
 with some rain. Son Arthur re

turned

March turned from Boston, in the
 23 evening cars. What rapidity!
 24 Friday. m. cloudy & wind N;
 at noon fair, & so continued.
 The snow is now much demin
 ished, and the ground nearly
 bare. We now have little from
 Congress & the General Court; and
 the Mexican War is becoming stale.
 The French disturbances at Par
 is may soon furnish new
 matter for contention. Should
 France adopt a republican form
 of Government in the present un
 prepared condition of the people
 the consequences could probably
 be a general war in Europe, and
 perhaps a renewal of the horrors of
 the former revolution.

25 Saturday. M. fair, wind NE
 a fine clear day.
 Daughter Isabella, sat out for
 Chicopee falls in the 6 o'clock cars. For
 about 2 hours will carry her home
 Col Bryant expects to remove the fam
 ily from Chicopee to a farm in the
 month of April & or May. and have in
 view one at Agawam in W. Springfield
 which he thinks will afford him &
 them a support. He has acquired a
 taste for agricultural employments, and
 attended to its theory as well as in
 some degree its practice.

26 Sunday m. cloudy wind SW
 day continued cloudy. The month
 of March, has thus far been about
 as cold & winter-like as that of February.

March
27

Travels
in the
Slave
states
by Buck-
ingham }
Monday m cloudy & rainy;
wind W, and a cloudy day
followed

Reading Buckingham's Travels in our
slave states 2 Vol. 8 vos. I am thankful
that I was born, and have lived in
the northern states where slavery
does not exist, and all men are free.
Mr Buckingham's account of the
southern people is as favorable as the
truth will admit; but his picture
at the best is, repulsive and in
deed horrible. Life liberty and
property are far from being pro-
tected by the laws.

28

Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind N.E.
& some rain; the day the same.
Son Arthur sat out in 10 o'clock cars
for Burlington, leaving his wife & little boy
with us until she goes to her Fathers
at Halifax.

Frank Henry arrived P.M. from
Halifax. to carry his sister to that place
The roads are now very muddy &
bad for travelling.

29

Wednesday. M. cloudy wind S.W.
sun soon seen and PM fair
Elizabeth & her brother Frank & little boy
sat for Halifax, in a single carriage~

Late
news
from
France }
By the arrival of the Calidonia at
Boston this week, having left Liverpool
March 11th, we hear that France is es-
tablishing a Republican Government
and that the nations of Europe are
not disposed to interfere with its
adoption. If the people of France
are determined on & fitted for a free
government who will object to their try-
ing the experiment. But I fear Ro-
bespierre, will arise among and
rule the uninformed multitude.

French
Repub-
lican
Govern-
ment }

March 29	Should France succeed in establishing a Republican Government and be able to maintain it for a few years, it needs not the gift of prophecy to predict the fate of the neighboring monarchies.
Reflections on	The same radical spirit which now pervades France, will soon be found in Great Britain; and her enormous public debt, her taxes to sustain it, & the response of her government, will accelerate a revolution So long as her army & navy retain their <u>loyalty</u> she may maintain her present government; but this loyalty being extinct, she will fall at once, from a powerful to a weak nation.
Effects on En gland	Under the workings of the present radicalism, which is now rife in the civilized part of the world, peace cannot long continue; and we may look for revolutions among the nations of Europe, whether for better or worse, is to be seen.
Dangers of Re publics	Republics would be preferable to monarchies, were all men informed and virtuous; but when these are lacking Demagogues, can lead a portion of the people into errors of the grossest kind; and introduce the worst principles. Good men may be repudiated as enemies to the people, and ignorance and vice be substituted. This is in a degree, the case in the United States Republicanism may flourish for a while in France; but in a short time Demagogues will arise and mislead the people to the greatest political errors and [] confusion & disorder of the worst kind follow. But Europe must go through the process, and the result no one knows. I hope however the world will become better & man more worthy of his station

March 30 Thursday M. fair, wind SW and the day fair through out. Birds of various kind have appeared and winter seems to have passed off.

31 Tuesday M fair, wind SW; the day fair & pleasant with occasional clouds

Mexican articles sent by D S Hoyt }
 I yesterday spent the afternoon at Horatio Hoyt's in looking at articles sent from Mexico by his son David S Hoyt, a soldier in the army at the City of Mexico: among which is number of Books in the Spanish language. I observed several periodicals published in London, and some other works printed in the United States; also several books on tactics. Many of the works are embellished with elegant engravings including a taste among the people. I had not anticipated.

Books & implements of war }
 Among other articles were the dress of the Mexican troops & their war implements, such as swords, lances &c. with a cuirass & helmet of brass worn by the cavalry, and a uniform coat & cap of the infantry. The Cavalry dress I think, too heavy & unwieldy and [] [] decorated with useless ornaments, rendering the expense of the troops unnecessarily great.

Had the Mexicans relied less on Cavalry and more on Infantry, their battles might have been different in their results The Mexican Cuirassence, may have been taught field maneuvers, or a peaceful parade; but to bring them up to a line of well disciplined infantry & artillery, under a [] force, is [] easy movement, and none but the first rate Cavalry of long experience, can produce a useful effect. In all the charges
 of

March
31 of Napoleon's best Cavalry, or the Infantry of Wellington, in the battle of Waterloo, they failed, & were repulsed with heavy loss. In general Cavalry act in support of the infantry and that order of battle which places them in the front line is reasoned faulty In no instance in battles of Mexico have we seen a successful charge of the Mexican Cavalry; nor is it to be supposed their horses could be brought up to a line of fire.

April
1 }
April }
Con-
gress }
proceed-
ings }

Saturday. M. cloudy with some rain & wind NW; the day fair

By the proceedings of Congress it appears, there is no relaxation of preparing for a further prosecution of the war with Mexico. The ten regiment bill has past and it is proposed to raise additional volunteers. Has our Government other acquisitions in view? The Island of Cuba is an attracting object, and the present state of Europe offers a favorable prospect for its acquisition; and will our cupidity stop there? No! The plan of President Monroe and Mr. Polk will not then be competed, nor democracy gutted with conquest. Peace, many have flattered themselves, was about to reign over the civilized world; but, judging from present appearances, that happy time is far distant. Should the nations of Europe become republics, will they be less inclined to war [] can answer the question.

April
1

In a Republic where the sovereignty resides in the people, it is entirely apt to run wild, and a few ambitious & unprincipled men may lead the majority to the greatest excesses Witness France in her former revolution witness our own nation in the present unjust war with Mexico, and we fear other similar errors will be found in the world, even if the people become republican without the virtues essential to sustain them.

2

Sunday. M partially fair, wind NW & the day was fair, but with scattering clouds

3

Monday M. fair, wind NW, the day continued fair, with wind W, though the air was cool. Cloudy at night Our News-papers are now filled with details of the French Revolution, from which it appears a Republican Government is to be established in that country, and the titles of nobility and every [] of royalty abolished, & universal suffrage permitted. Such a change in one of the most powerful nations of Europe, will doubtless produce great effects in that quarter of the world, and it is feared cause a general war. From the latest intelligence however, it seems that the other nations, are not disposed to interfere with the revolution,--a wise course it is believed.

French Revolu
tion fills
the papers

If to support a free government virtue & intelligence are essential, then the question is: Are these found among the commonality of France? Of sufficient force to counteract the evil designs of unprincipled leaders?

April

2

Re
marks
& reflec
tions }

Perhaps no nation in the world has carried the arts, sciences & literature to higher perfection than that of France. But this devotion is probably confined to but a comparative few, while the uneducated part may be in a low station, and national morality remain at a low ebb.

The excesses of the former Revolution indicate pretty clearly what was the real condition of the people at that time; and on no other ground can we account for the horrible butcheries committed by Robespierre & other pretended friends of the people, during the "Reign of Terror" in the early part of that revolution. If the common people of France have become enlightened, and chaste, since that period, every part riot will rejoice. But when we look at the progress of error and the delusion among our own people since the adoption of the federal constitution, the prospects are far from favorable. If in some particulars we have made improvements, they are counteracted by others. In short we find errors committed little short of those of the monarchies of Europe. Where the people of a country are so enlightened as to counteract the designs of evil men, a republican government is a beautiful machine, but if the people are banking in political venture, it may become the worst. If the people of France possess this virtue, the revolution may be a blessing; but of this good men have their doubts; and should it result in the same confusion that followed the former revolution, the patriotic part of mankind will regret it.

April
4

Letter }
from
DS Hoyt
at Mex
ico }

Tuesday m cloudy, and SW; the day continued cloudy with some rain I have just read a Letter from David S. Hoyt dated City of Mexico the 29th of February last, and the North American of the 2d of March, a News paper printed in that city. He expresses a hope to obtain a commission in one of the ten regiments, now about to be raised by act of Congress. Mr Polk, however may not be disposed to look to the army for experienced men, in preference to his home favorites who claim a right to "the spoils".

The army is at the Capital and or at other places not far distant, and is represented as healthy; but the approaching hot season will probably put on a different aspect. From the time of his letter, I think he begins to see the folly of wild young men who look for happiness abroad and in the bubble of military show. If willing to accept an appointment in the army, he, it is presumed has an eye to the pay. His enlistment as a soldier, has to me been a singular step, inconsiderably made.

The letter advises his brother to remain at home & work with their father. This may cover a meaning which does not at first strike the eye. I had supposed that after the novelty was over, he would not find the life of a soldier strewn with flowers; and from some hints in the letter it appears, that a great portion of the troops are turning their eyes homewards. [—] with little indication for further service The war spirit found among young men is an uncertain [] in []

Re }
marks }
on }

April 4 Clear fitness for the hostile field.
 Charmed with military show at home
 and raised by the stories of their fathers who have seen service, on the approach of war, they eagerly place their names upon the recruiting officers enlistment, put on the military dress and buckles, and think themselves happy; but as soon as they see and feel the hardships of the camp, their spirits flag, and home & friends absorb their thoughts, and the soldering life becomes disgusting; but they then find it too late to retrieve their error and submit to the iron hand of discipline with all the patience within their power; but still brooding over their unfortunate condition; and at the expiration of their term of service return home to relate their hardships and sufferings. But after a peace of 25 or 30 years, and a new generation has come upon the stage, the war spirit is again roused, and the young men who know nothing of war, are ready to enlist into military service to acquire "glory" and probably this will continue to be the case until our young men are better instructed, and the peaceful arts are duly appreciated.

I would not however repudiate a war spirit in all cases, but compare it to defensive operations, and the support of the laws of the country. Military science in its elevated branches, should be fostered; but it may be kept up in schools instituted for this purpose~

5 Wednesday. M. fair, wind N. and day clear with cool air.
 Our General Court has been in session 3 months & is still full of business & Such protracted

April
5
Gener al Court}

Tardy mode of doing business}

6

The Troy Rail road}

protracted [] I have supposed might be avoided by proper Modes of performing the duties of the two branches under the present system the chief part of the business is preformed by Com mittees, while the other members are unemployed. This I would correct by a different mode of operation, which I think would cut off, at least one third of the time now spent, or rather respent. The great error as it appears to me, is intrusting so much of the business to Committees, and admitting Lawyers to plead before them, by which weeks are sometimes occupied, while the two branches have little or nothing to do, especially during the first month of the Session; nor could afterwards, but to give this silent vote on bills presented by the Committees. We boast of the security of our rights and liberty, from the full representation in the House, but it is a fact that the business is performed by a selected few. Much might be said on this subject.

Thursday. M. fair, wind NW; the day clear & pleasant.

We learn that the Petition for a rail road from Greenfield to Troy is not likely to meet with success in the Legislature. I have supposed a Charter would be granted as the easiest mode of getting rid of an Utopian project; but the boring of a Sims' hole through Hoosac mountain was an impediment not to be overcome by "three millions of dollars". When men give loose to their imaginations, they forget the rules of probability & economy.

April
7
Letter to a Gentleman of Wardsborough }
on the Hoyt family }

Friday m. fair, wind W. the day clear, but rather cool, and NE. Wrote a letter to S.G. Kellogg of North Wardsboro, concerning the Hoyt family, by request. The writer is a stranger to me, and seems to possess an antiquarian taste. so far at least as relates to genealogy. The family of Kelloggs has been somewhat noted in the Indian war in this part of the country. A family of that name was made prisoners when Deerfield was destroyed in 1704. Some account whom I have given in my Antiquarian Researches, page 195 & 222, to which I referred the writer of the letter.

Note The names of the Hoyt family captured when the town was destroyed were the following:

Besides the father, David Hoyt, Abigail Hoyt (his wife), David Hoyt Jr (killed) Jonathan Hoyt, Sarah Hoyt, Ebenezer Hoyt, Abigail Hoyt Jr. Of the fate of the families I have not been accurately informed, but supposed they were slain on the route up the Connecticut. Benjamin Hoyt, a son, fortunately escaped, and sometime after, left Deerfield and & planted himself in the S.W. part of Connecticut, I believe at Ridgefield, where probably, he found connections of the Windsor Hoyts, and raised a family.

Familiy of David Hoyt in 704 }
8
Saturday. M. fair, wind W and the day clear & the roads are becoming dry~ We hear nothing important from Mexico during the week. The army is posted at various stations, and the men looking eagerly to their homes. The hot season is approaching and many may yet be prostrated, by the malaria of the country, more fatal than Mexican bullets.

The

April
8 The Treaty }
 The treaty as modified by our government I think will be accepted by that of the Mexicans, even at the loss of one half of her territory; and if our democracy is satisfied with this acquisition, she may consider it fortunate. She may continue a nation provided she is duly subservient to our cupidity.

9 Sunday M. fair. wind NW;
 the day continued fair & clear.
 The revolution in France now absorbs the attention of the civilized world, and the important question is whether the French people possess the political virtue necessary for a republican government? Should it result in the confusion & distress of the former one, no patriot will rejoice at the movement. The former revolution commenced on rational principles, when the people were under the oppression of the old government; but how soon it sunk to anarchy and to the iron hand of monarchy-More base & ferocious than ~~than~~ the people before experienced! Should the present movement terminate in a similar manner, all good men would mourn at the fatal experiment. We look to the next steamer for important information, and shall be gratified if we learn that the revolution is successful, the liberty of the people safe and no war likely follow. But if the bloody scenes which shocked the world in the French revolution are to be reiterated & Europe plunged into war, every patriot

April 9 patriot will deeply deprecate the present movement as a prologue to a tragedy fraught with destruction and misery to mankind.
 In France many profound men are found, but, as in all old populous nations, a portion of the people are totally unfit for a free government, and liable to the imposition of designing demagogues, whose very existence depends on anarchy and spoil. When Europe is free from such men, and the people become enlightened & virtuous If in the present movement in France she finds no Marats, Dantons & Robespierres, she will be fortunate.

10 Monday. M. fair, and wind SW the day fair with floating clouds.
Elizabeth & her little Charles arrived at 11 o'clock from Halifax; had received two letters from Arthur, written at Middlebury, Vt. on his route to Burlington. The Rail road is now to be pushed on with all possible speed, with the hope of completing it this season or by next January; but I doubt whether it will be so soon accomplished.
 Should the movement in France produce a General war in Europe, the effect may be unfavorable to our rail road projects by checking on trade & commerce & of course the money market in our commercial cities, which furnish a great portion of the money for their roads.

11 Tuesday. M. fair, and wind N.E.
 The day fair, and air pleasant
 Our farmers begin to plough their lands

April
12

Effects
of the
French
move
ment
on the
other na
tions of
Europe

A gen
eral
war
may
be the
result

Condi
tion of
England

Wednesday M cloudy with some
rain, wind SW; the day con
tinued cloudy.

From the latest intelligence from Europe it appears the revolutionary movement in France is extending rapidly to other nations. Italy, Austria, Bavaria, Prussia, Germany, Holland & Belgium are partaking of the whirlwind; and even some of the Russian possessions begin to feel its sweep. Such a simultaneous movement indicates that combustibles have been for some time collecting, and are ready for the fire. and we think the time is near when all the hereditary monarch of Europe will be swept from their thrones.

and elective governments be substituted by the people. Whether this change can be effected, without a tremendous war, is to be seen. We hope that such a catastrophe will be avoided; but we confess, our hopes rest on faint probabilities. Should the movement reach England, and prostrate the Government the rest of Europe would make but a feeble opposition to the spirit of reform, which has now become so prevalent among the people. When this spirit of reform becomes general in Europe, its monarchs may bid adieu[u] to their thrones and retire to private life, reckoning themselves fortunate if they escape the fury of their enraged subjects.

Great Britain, we believe would escape this revolutionary movement were she free from her enormous public debt, which it is certain never can be paid & must at length be sponged: And however repulsive this may be to an honorable nation, the people will submit to it rather than to the heavy taxation with which they are now burdened.

April
12

Re
marks}

and the government is compelled to put upon them. to sustain the public credit.
 In these movements our Ultra democrats will imagine they see the approach of a political millennium, which is to correct the errors of the old governments, and restore man to his natural rights; forgetting however that unbounded liberty, may run into excesses as fatal as they have been under monarchs, as was the case in the former revolution in France, when the death of Monarchs, and the destruction of all distinctions on society were deemed essential to liberty, forgetting also that, that revolution ended on the establishment of a monarchy more iron handed than that of the Bourbons. But it is said the people of France have become more enlightened & virtuous than at that period: We hope this is the case, and that they are now fitted for a free government, and that Marats & Robespierres will not again be found among them

Volney among the Ruins of Palmyra} But others, with more knowledge of the nature of man, may entertain thoughts not less depressing than those of M. Volney when contemplating the ruins of Palmyra. "Reflecting (said he) that if the place before me had once inhabited this animated picture; who said I to myself, can assure me that this present desolation will not one day be the lot of our own country? Who knows but that hereafter, some traveler like myself, will sit down upon the banks of the Seine, the Thames, or the Zuyder sea¹² where now, in the midst of enjoyment, the heart & the eye are too slow to take in the multitude of sensations; who knows but he will sit down, solitary among silent ruins and

weep.

¹² He means Zuyder-zee, a shallow bay of the North Sea, northwest of the Netherlands.

April
12

Reflec
tions }

Gloomy
aspect }

13

Col
Bryants
new
purchase}

weep a people inward, and
their greatness changed into an
empty name?
If this has been the fate of the once
flourishing countries of the eastern continent
what but the corruption of the peo
ple can account for the melancholy
condition of those nations; and
will not similar corruptions produce
similar effects at this time.
The present state of the nations of Eu
rope, presents a gloomy aspect, and
what will be the result of the present
revolutionary movements, none can
foretell. Let us hope that man
is becoming more worthy of his
dignity in the scale of human being
and that future history will present
a more inviting picture than that of
former times. In the establishment
of Republics our essential seems to be dis
regarded: namely political virtue, with
out which all governments of this
kind are but empty names.
In the United States where all should
be harmony, we see party spirit at strife
and the people as restless as under the
monarchs of Europe; and if the govern
ments the, shall become republics
it is a question whether they will be
less disposed to war & [] the present gov
ernments?
Thursday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.
and the day generally cloudy.
My connection Col. Bryant, just called
and informed me he had greed to
purchase the Tryan farm at South Deer
field; at the price of \$3000 said to
contain acres. I hope the farm
will answer his expectations & wishes
The Rail road passes across the farm
and the depot is near. He says
there is a large quantity of wood on
the premises.

April Friday m fair wind SW and
 14 the day cloudy & cool.
 Great } With a view of forming an opin
 Britain } ion on the stability of the Govern
 ment of Great Britain, and the
 effects of the present whirlwind
 now sweeping over Europe, we have
 turned to the Geography of England & its sta
 tistics;, and we have been com
 pelled to acknowledge, that not one
 favorable symptom is to be found
 indicating a recovery from her
 disease. The only hope of her res
 toration and continuance as a na
 tion seems to be a complete sping
 ing of her national debt, and com
 mencing a Government de Novo
 on economical principles. However
 mortifying this step may be to so honor
 able a nation, it is certain that nothing
 short of it will satisfy the revolutionary
 spirit now diffused among the people.
 Views } In the History of Europe from the
 of commencement of the French Revolution
 in 1789 to the Restoration of the Bourbons,
 in 1815, by Archibald Alison F.R.S. E.
 Chap. 41st, inserted in the Appendix of E.
 Alison } S. Goulds Abridgement of Alison published in this
 on the Country in 1843, we have a pretty []
 nation } history of the public debt of Great Britain,
 and Mr Pitts plan for redeeming it by
 a sinking fund, which seems to have
 failed through the imprudence of the Go
 vernment. The subject is intricate &
 requires financial knowledge, with of which
 but a few have bestowed much attention.
 The public debt of Great Britain, as stated
 by Mr Alison, amounts to the enormous

April
14

Amount
of

Gloomy
con-
clusion

Lesson
taught

our
proper
course

sum (in the year 1832) of £782,667,234 with the interest of £28,341,463 per annum. With this load upon its shoulders the nation must sink, unless she throws off the load. Had the plan of Mr. Pitt been adhered to Mr Alison says, "the whole debt might have been extinguished with ease before the year 1840—"Irretrievable ruin, has thus, he says, been brought up on the state"; and he adds, "In two centuries the name of England may be extinct, or survive only under the shadow of ancient renown." But if this should happen within half a century from the time he wrote, his prediction would have come nearer to the birth, if we may judge from present movements.

The contemplation of the subject is gloomy, and the lesson taught is, that nations, as well as individuals, must keep within the rules of prudence & economy~
 Ought we of the United States to express gratulations for the movements in Europe? This character is to be determined by the results; and they may turn out the reverse of expectation & wish es. Prudence dictates that we wait for the results, and then act according to circumstances. We ought to rejoice at the amelioration of the condition of our fellow men; but that all the nations of Europe are fitted for few governments is not to be supposed; and complete freedom among such, may end in anarchy & misery. Who believes that the mass of the people in all parts of Austria Turkey or Russia are prepared for free governments? When

April 14 Where a people are well informed, possess political virtue, and the glory and happiness of the country takes possession of the breasts of all, Rublian forms may be adopted as preferable to others. Without these essential qualities a republic may be but an empty name. In the United States we flatter ourselves that the people are thus prepared for [f]reedom; but we are compelled to say, that in too many instances demagogues are able to mislead the people, by deception & selfish views, to dangerous & destructive courses, which may ultimately prostrate the Government

15 Saturday. M fair, wind NE but soon changed to SW; the day continued fair, with many broke clouds, This day President Everett of the Cambridge University, delivers an address on the death of J.Q. Adams, before our Legislature, at Boston. The address we presume will be copious and highly interesting. We shall look for a printed copy, which no doubt will be ordered by the Legislature. A more extensive Biography of the deceased patriot may be expected, and we know no one more able to do it justice than Mr. Everett. From Congress, on Mexico, we have heard nothing important during the week; but much from Europe in relation to revolutionary movements which may involve that quarter in a general war & ruin

An address this day from Mr. Everett, at Boston } Cambridge University, delivers an address on the death of J.Q. Adams, before our Legislature, at Boston. The address we presume will be copious and highly interesting. We shall look for a printed copy, which no doubt will be ordered by the Legislature. A more extensive Biography of the deceased patriot may be expected, and we know no one more able to do it justice than Mr. Everett. From Congress, on Mexico, we have heard nothing important during the week; but much from Europe in relation to revolutionary movements which may involve that quarter in a general war & ruin

April
16

Reflec
tions }

17

Invit
ing
weather }

Reflec
tions }

Sunday M fair, and wind W; the day fair and pleasant and nature is now preparing to “burst into birth.” Whence this admirable circuit of the seasons? The reflecting mind perceives a Motor, and provident to his creatures, by uniform laws! “To thee whose temple is all space, Whose alter earth, sea, skies, One chorus let all being raise. All Nature’s incense rise.”¹³

Monday. M. fair wind N.W.
and the day very clear & ground dry.
This morn Elizabeth returned from Chicopee falls, with her little Charles.
and had an agreeable visit at Col. Bryant’s—brings material for two gowns for myself.

The day so fine and the roads dry, invite to a trip about the town: But Unfitted now to travel the mead, or climb the hill with former speed. The mice still [] crows to rave Through vale, and frequented grave. Where joy & peace and sport were found And who brought its pleasing sound.

A relish for such scenes in one of my age, maybe thought out of place. But far be from me as my friends such [] philoso phy “as would render no []

¹³ Alexander Pope, *Universal Prayer*.

April to the fine sensibilities of our
 17 youthful days;
 When organs felt not times decay
 And [] not with day.
 Even in old age, while the mind
 retains its recollections, visiting old
 scenes, impart, a pleasurable
 sensation not always appreci-
 ated by the unreflecting mind.

18 Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind N.
 and cold air. At 11 o'clock
 A.M. a flash of snow; the
 Effects day generally cloudy & cold, pro-
 of cold ducing a drowsiness I do not
 on feel in warm air, which pro-
 the aged } motes perspiration. Under this
 diathesis I have little inclination for
 journalizing, or exercising the mind.
 Ardent } In some animals cold produces
 Spirits } torpidity, and its effects on me
 seem to be something similar. Is
 this peculiar to the old of the hu-
 man race? I submit the question
 to the physiologist. and also whe-
 ther ardent spirits are useful to the old,
 remarking, by the way, that I make
 use of none, not even wine. Occa-
 sionally I take a moderate draught
 of cider with my food, but prefer
 it diluted with water.
 Formerly a portion of ardent spir-
 its were supposed necessary, and par-
 ticularly for soldiers in the field, which
 perhaps was an error. With the practice
 of our troops in Mexico I am not in-
 formed

April
19
Fall }
of snow }

Wednesday. M. cloudy with snow falling, and presenting the Novel aspect of 3 inches of winter dress on the ground; wind N, the day PM fair or clear.

suffer }
ing
Buds }

The harmless summer birds, now [] about our buildings to procure a pittance of food; but I fear they will suffer, before the snow dissolves; their instincts seems not to have forewarned them of their sudden change. I have known a later fall of snow, but of rare occurrence.

Rail }
road
facilities }

The winter aspect of the morning, which was truly dreary, has in some degree changed in the course of the day: the roads are bare & some patches of land on the hills begin to appear, but the day continued rather cold with a currant of air from the northward.

But while our roads are obstructed with snow & mud, we behold a start of portable houses passing along, with the rapidity of a vicarious shuttle.

Zeal }
for }

What a facility in travelling! Fifty years ago our fathers would have frowned at the project, as the ravings of a maniac.

The success of these roads and their rapidity of [] and is absolutely bewitching, and [] the numerous effects of their construction. & often without counting the cost. In their zeal, men now think of cutting down mountains, or tunneling 4 or 5 miles through their bases, as if the task was Lili putian, and millions of dollars & paltry sum

April 19 Time and reference will back us, that none but the great arteries of trade and a few branches can be maintained without serious loss to their owners.

20 Thursday. M. fair, wind N. and air cold: The day continued fair and the snow nearly disappeared. Wind changed to W. and the air cool for the season. Anxiously looking for a steam ship from England, with details of the revolutionary storm in Europe

21 Friday M. fair, wind SW; the day continued fair but not warm.

Gener al Court } Our General Court is still in session and probably will continue into May. That four months are necessary for the performance of the State business, I cannot readily conceive. The Great State of New York, I believe, finishes its Session within three months once the State of Vermont in less than two. How is this to be explained, without supposing our State to have adopted a slow mode of transacting business? See page 80 for some hints on this subject.

The House has passed an order for printing 6000 of Mr Everett's Eulogy on John Q. Adams. Any production of this cast, from the pen of Mr Everett will find admirers.

22 Saturday. M fair, wind SW the day continued fair till after noon at then became thinly cloudy

April 22 Accounts from Mexico it is said
 [] in representing the mortality among the soldiers There as truly alarming, Some state it as high as 1000 but in the present inactivity of the troops, and the consequent increase of nostalgia it is not improbable As the heat increases the mortality may be more fatal, and vast numbers prostrated by the malaria of the country before our army evacuates it after the war closes, we probably shall see a horrible list of deaths from sickness, which indeed prevails in all armies, and especially in hot countries. This fatality was entirely overlooked by by our [] volunteers, who rushed to Mexico for sport. But the next generation will forget the fatal lesson, and seek the bubble “meeting glory” at the cannon’s mouth, without a thought of the justice of the cause. Such is the mass of young men! and nothing short of “killing off” will correct their error Hence a peace of more than thirty years will be a rare occurrence.
 In asserting this I am aware I am at variance with a portion of our good people, who are looking for better times from the perfedibility of man. But alas! I am constrained to say, that the present aspect of the world gives no power of such an enviable condition.
 Are we as Republicans becoming more reasonable or just?

Fatal
ity of
the troops
in Mex
ico

Re
marks
on

Period
ical war
spirit

Look

April
22 Look at our war with Mexico.
 Queries }
 in point }
 Polit }
 ical }
 virtue }
 23 What but a formidable accession of territory was the primary object of our democracy? What the present movements in Europe, but the prostration of all the legitimate governments, for the introduction of theoretical schemes, which the practical wisdom of nations has deemed destructive to the order & welfare of the people? If the nations of Europe are to be charged to repeal lies, let us first look to political virtue in the people, as preparatory Where this virtue prevails, and the people will govern their unruly passions & prejudices, they may look to free governments for welfare & happiness~
Sunday. M. fair, wind SW;
 the day fair, but hazy P.M.~
 By the arrival of the Sarah Sands
 at N York, 18 days from Liverpool,
 we learn that the movements in Europe
 are likely to produce war between
 various nations. Armies of Observation
 are ordered to the field, and in
 France some opposition to the revolution
 is seen. England, is said to remain
 firm, but Ireland is in a bluster.
 Let us hope that the storm will subside, monarchy be stayed, and the people will learn that regulated obedience is essential to liberty~
 24 Monday M. cloudy and wind NW
 but the sun soon seen; the day fair & rather cool & windy

April
 24
 A favor
 able
 feature
 in the
 French
 Revolu
 tion } In the revolutionary movement
 of France one favorable feature
 is seen: it proposes to emancipate
 all slaves within their territories.
 This causes some alarm in the
 people of our slaveholding states.
 While tenderly alive to the liberties
 and freedom of the French
 people, they insist on holding
 two or three millions of their fel
 low men in the chains of Bondage
 and consider any attempts to
 cast off the shackles no better
 than robbing of their legitimate
 property; and at the same
 time call themselves republicans
 of the first order. When men have
 arrived at such a pitch of absurdity
 it is vain our attempts to reason
 with them. They may be left
 to the operation of causes which
 will [] present something
 more effective than arguments.
 If it be true that the southern peo
 ple cannot exist without slavery, then
 it follows irresistibly, that their
 duration is but short. By the
 acquisition of new slave states, slavery
 may be prolonged; but retribu
 tion justice will not always sleep
 and the very spirit now awake
 in Europe, will at length give it
 the gravitas And whether mon
 archies or Republics prevail in Eur
 ope Slavery must come to an end.
 and man no longer be allowed
 to [] his fellow man, under
 the imperial idle that he has
 that right Let the advocates of the sys
 tem, pause tremble & awake to their fate

anti }
 slavery }
 a view }
 to the }
 south }
 ern peo
 ple }
 End }
 of slave
 ry }

April
25

News
from
Europe}

Re
marks
on

Tuesday. M. fair, wind SW
the day fair and air moderate.
I am informed that the steam ship Acadia
has arrived at Boston from Liverpool
bringing ominous accounts of the revolution
ary movements in Europe. Is
that part of the world so
long noted for its arts, science
and civilization, to fall from
its glory, and like the old
eastern nations, to be known only
in history? the thought is
depressing—But we are told that
Europe is just emerging from
a dark age, and that man is
now to be restored to his long lost
liberty—pleasing though, were it
a reality. If, as history informs
us, the world has existed nearly
six thousand years, and man has
made no progress towards national
governments, what are we to say
of an overriding Providence whose
acts are kindness & benevolence as is evident
from the phenomena of nature every where exhibited? If
man has this long been immersed in
darkness, is it to be supposed, his []
[] from it, by his own efforts?
Enthusiasm may embrace the belief,
but so long as men exhibit no more
parity than is now seen, I may be
allowed to doubt whether they are
about to emerge from darkness to the full light of day
and banish error from the world. That
the governments of Europe require amendments is not to
be doubted, but to [] them at once, is a dangerous
movement and may end in anarchy.

April

26

News

by the

Acadia

Wednesday M. cloudy wind SW
 and cool air; day cloudy.
 The most important news by the
Acadia relates to England and
 Ireland. An immense meeting of
Chartists is proposed at London & of Republicans at
 Dublin. The Government has forbidden
 the assemblage in the former City, by
 proclamation, but the Chartist pre-
 sist in the measure & bid defiance to

England
 in a
 [] state

the Government; in consequence of which
 strong military forces are ordered to
 the capital, & the citizens furnished
 with arms. Deeming it unsafe for
 the Queen to remain in London she
 has been sent to the Isle of Wight.
 If the troops remain loyal, there
 may be no contest at the City; but
 should they prove otherwise and
 refuse to act against the people,
 the Government of Great Britain is at
 an end. Troops are absent to Is-

Proba-
 ble re-
 sult

land, but the people are ready for
 any revolutionary movement. Never
 has the British nation seen so perilous
 a time, and probably her glory is
 about to fade, and her foreign pos-
 sessions to fall into other hands.

We wait with intense interest, the next
 arrival from Liverpool.

Remarking upon their decline and
 fall. Alison says, "Nations like individ-
 uals were not destined for immortality;
 in their virtues, equally is in their vices,
 their grandeur as their weakness, they bear
 in their bosom the seeds of morality; but
 in the passions which elevate them to
 greatness, is to be discerned the unceasing
 operation of those principles at once of
 corruption and resurrection, which are
 combined in humanity, and which,
 universal in Communities as in single men,
 compensate the necessary decline of nations
 by the vital fire which has given
 an undecaying [] to the human race."

Alison's
 Remarks
 Chap.
 41

April 27 Tuesday m. fair, wind N.
 and the air softened; the day
 continued fair & the air agreeable

Object of the Chartist
 in England }
 The object of the Chartists in England seems, not to have generally known in this country, but the following appears to be the substance of it.

Universal suffrage vote by ballot in the election of members of Parliament, an equal distribution of the electoral districts, the payment by Government of members of Parliament, and a provision for annual parliaments.

[] }
 [] }
 petition to Parliament }
 This renders the House of Lords elective, but the Crown may remain hereditary. A petition embracing this plan, is to be presented to Parliament of 200 yards in length." If the petition is refused, the Chartists are said to be resolved on a Revolutionary force, which if successful will result in a Republic.

If the people is determined on this course, it is in vain for the Government to oppose it, even with its military force.

Whether a reform of the Government, or a complete revolution is the result of the movement, is it to be supposed the national debt will be maintained, when it is known that it never can be discharged, by any efforts whatever?

A sponging of the public debt may be reduce some of the creditors to poverty: in such cases it would be the duty of government to afford such aliviation as it might be within its ability. In

April
27
Aspect }
of Great
Britain }

In a word, I think the present condition of the British Islands for our Commisseration rather than our hostility and hearty congratulations. So far as the government of a country [—] oppresses it the welfare of a people, we may rejoice in their overthrow. But let us remember that in old nations of limited extent, where there is an overgrown population and land is clear, numerous poor people will be found, and this will continue to be the case under all forms of Government.

Re
marks }
on the
poor of
old Na
tions }

If in America we have comparatively few poor men is it not owing to the vast un settled lands in the western regions where cheap farms may be obtained? When these lands are filled with inhabitants, will not the poor multiply, as in the old Countries of Europe and the people be subjected to poverty, without the fault of their governments? In this condition the right of depositing their votes at the ballot box, at the dictating of some urgent demagogue, would not be deemed a high privilege, while their hungry fami lies are to receive no relief.

Pover
ty un
avoid
able }

The truth is, poverty is the effect of causes beyond the control of governments, and a community where one part of the people are rich, the other part are poor; nor is an equali ly of condition possible under any form of government.

28

Friday. M. fair, wind SW;
the day hazy but the sun generally out.
Vegetation has made by little progress an the trees reclaim their winter aspect and no warm days have arrived.

April 28 Isabella & two daughters of Col. Bryant arrived by the afternoon cars. The Col has purchased the Tryan farm at S. Deerfield & now takes possession of it for a residence. I hope the family will be satisfied with its locality. Leaving their previous residence at Chicopee falls may excite some disagreeable sensations; but this must be supposed when circumstances require a change of situation. The farm covers about acres, part of which rather low and wet, but may be drained.

Village S. Deerfield } The village has recently been much enproved & the rail-road and depot give it an additional spring. It has two trading stores ~~an~~ post office and an excellent Tavern, at which 5 or 6 roads concentrate and a bridge over the Connecticut connects with the village of Sunderland

29 Saturday. M. cloudy & foggy with some rain; wind N; the day cloudy till late afternoon. At 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ A.M. Isabella & Co. left us for S. Deerfield in the cars, to take possession of their new residence. That my feelings are highly interested in their prosperity, will not be doubted. The farm will require care & labor to fit it for profitable cultivation, and is now in the hands of one who has a taste for such improvements, and has studied the elements of Agriculture to some extent.

General Court } Our General Court This body it is said talk of closing its session next week, [] 4 months

April
29
Its long session } just one third of a year!
The Committees it is presumed have been assiduous in their business, but in the mean time, how have the other members been employed?
We mean nothing disrespectful; but would urge a careful revision of the Rules and Orders of the two branches; there these protracted sessions will be explained.

30 Sunday. M. fair wind NW and cold air; The day clear, but the sun's rays seem to act but futilely on the atmosphere. The roads are dry & afford good traveling.

May
1 Monday. M. fair, wind and day partially fair, & cloudy PM
We now enter upon a month in which nature exhibits the most lively aspect, adapted to our pleasure and enjoyment. What reflecting mind can view this scene of nature without admiration, and the conviction of the existence of an omnipotent agent, operating by direct, or secondary laws. To say these adaptations are irrelevant in matter ~~in matter~~ would afford no explanations of the phenomena; for still [] must be seen, and this being admitted an over ruling power is demonstrated. But, say some few, we ought not assert to this because we cannot account for the origin of this power; at the same time they assert that matter has existed from eternity with all its properties. But I must say I perceive no force in their argument. By admitting a Cause of causes all the phenomena of nature are at once explained.

Beau ty of the Season }
Reflec tions }

May 1
 Chartists meet ing at London a fail ure } By an arrival of a Steam ship at N York from Liverpool, we are informed that the Chartist move ment at London, the 10th, 11th ult. turned out a failure, the popu lace of the city proving loyal to the Government. This result may for a time, arrest the progress of revolution in England; but it may gain rouse, with increased vigor, unless the expenses of the Gov ernment are diminished. The demo cratic spirit, caught from us, will never rest until all monarchial gov ernments are prostrated; and then may commence a reign of Demagogues not less oppressive than monarchies, in which men of honor & imminent talents will be repudiated, as are ene mies to the people, as is now seen in some parts of the United States. Where a Webster & a Clay are less esteemed than the vilest stump ora ter, or a vociferous demagogue We wish for reforms in every govern ments where the people are oppressed but we think they should not be attempted in a storm, nor outstep the ~~the~~ improvements of the people in political science & moral prin ciples. Liberty without re straint is a false name: it must be regulated by wise laws— laws which protect property as well life; and to give them due effect time and practice are necessary.

In a change from monarchy to a free government of univers al suffrage the mass of man kind, having imbibe a prejudices against their former rulers, are apt to en tertain feelings of revenge which lead

Re marks } on } Danger of chang es }

May

1

Former
French
Revolu
tion

lead to violent excesses totally incompatible with true liberty and the harmony of society as was seen in the former revolution in France, in which a portion of the people was transformed to demons; and even in our free government, with all its [] we see the present patriots repudiated, as the enemies of the people. What then will be the effect of unbounded freedom in Europe, before the mass is prepared for it? We say then that the march towards freedom is progressive, and rests on the intelligence & virtue of the people. In these changes of government, the greatest changes arise from the influence of the demagogues in propagating delusion among the uninformed part of community. That the present movement in Europe shall result in correcting the abuses of Governments, is the ardent wish of the patriot; but if it shall result in anarchy, who will say the people have been benefitted by it? In our own government though elective, abuses are seen, and when the people become corrupt, these may be as evil as in the Governments of Europe.

Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind SW.
and the day mostly cloudy & some rain
This morning Esqr. Henry & his daughter Elizabeth & little Charles, left us for Halifax, he having arrived last evening.

2

J. Hen
ry

May 2 Wrote a letter Lewis L. Arms at Glens-Falls, concerning grave stones for my Daughter Fanny interred at that place. My son Arthur to be at that place about the 10th instant to see the stones erected and pay the bill for them~

Letter to L. Arms } Since the arrival of the Accounts of the political storms in Europe, we have little of the treaty with Mexico. Now & then a letter writer expresses his doubts whether the treaty will be accepted by the Mexican Government. But what can they expect from a delay, Are they waiting for the sickly season to thin off our troops? Or do they flatter themselves that Mr. Polk will relinquish part of the territory described in the treaty. This he dare not do, for he is acting for a party whose object was territory from the past invasion. Mr Polk well understood this plan, when he was the cleared Gen. Taylor to advance from the Nueces to the Rio Grand, and he has followed up the plan faithfully, and the slave states, will thank him for his perseverance and probably reward him at the next election of President, if he will consent to a nomination of which we think there is little doubt; in which case Mr Webster & Mr Clay may remain in the back ground. The idea of electing a man of high talents is idle in the extreme.

Mexico, few a counts from } and carries an ignorance of the nature of democracy. Were a Washington to be offered, he would be rejected as an aristocrat. If

Mr Polk } Next Presi dent }

May

2

Low state of public opinion

If this be a correct statement of public opinion in the United States, what highminde[d] know able patriot can contemplate it with complacency or feel a pride in the name of America. Such a degraded condition of the public mind in a country where universal suffrage is the basis of the government, affords verifications of the predictions of the most violent [] of the republican system. Let us hope a more enlightened period will eradicate such low prejudices, and render us more worthy in the scale of being.

3

A dull day

Wednesday. M cloudy, rain last night & this morning. wind North. the day continued cloudy, with some rain [] the day. Thus shut out from the Sun's rays, the air re mains cool, and I am inclined to sleep; When the heat is so great as to produce perspiration, the effects are quite different. During fits of languor in the aged is a small dose of ardent spirits a useful invigo rator? Is so I have it to learn, as it is not my practice. Simple drinks and light meals seem to be the best preservers of health; but a mod erate use of prune wine may not be injurious, an article not often found in our country towns; or if there found, the cost has been to great for general use, and cider is substituted, a barrel of which is bought for less than a gallon of fashionable wine Ardent spirits are less used than in years past, and whether necessary for a person or health is a question.

Re marks on health

May Thursday M. fair, wind N.E.
 4 and the day fair & pleasant. Some
 Blossoms } of our maples begin to show blossoms,
 appear and few such days will clothe them with
 leaves: some of the daffodils in
 our garden, show their yellow blossoms
 But unlike most others, these blossoms
 seem to require but little heat in their
 production.

5 Friday m. cloudy with rain;
 wind S.W. and the afternoon
 partially fair. and vegetation makes
 a slow advance. The Suns declination
 Mexi is now about 16° N, and nearly ver
 can tical at the Mexican City, at noon. General
 army } Butler's troops may soon find employ
 ment for their physicians & the ten new
 regiments, yet to be enlisted!
 Gen. Scott, shorn of his laurels, it is
 believed, wishes to inhale the air of a more
 northern latitude, leaving his modest
 Gen. Pillow to his Lionidas letters
 The history of this war will present
 the singular spectable of a successful Gen
 eral and yet a degraded commander.

6 Saturday. m. cloudy, wind S.W.; sun
 out before noon & day fair & wind N.
 Fail The failure of the designs of the Chartists
 ure } at London, will probably give a check
 of the } to the revolutionary movement in England,
 Chart } and also to that of neighboring nations of
 ist of } Europe, but, France may submit to the
 Englan } fury of a Paris mob. The Government of
 England it is stated, organized 200,000 Con
 stables in London, who proved loyal and
 deterring the Chartists. Europe may not
 be soon a revolution as as we had antic
 pated, and our hasty congratulations my
 prove premature. Long established systems
 of Government are not to be changed at a low

[]

May
6

Know
ledge &
virtue
essential
in Re
publics }
Re
marks }
on.
Popu
larity
short
lived }

they are progressive and must keep pace with the improvement of the people on political knowledge and virtue. To suppose an ignorant, or a corrupt people can or will administer a Government wisely is a gross absurdity. and to suppose men in such conditions will elect agents fitted to govern, is another absurdity In the old populous countries of Europe where a large portion of the people are uninformed, free governments would soon end in anarchy. Even in the United States where the people are deprived of virtuous instruction, we find men elected to offices for which they are totally unfit; and this will continue to be the case so long as the people are unable to discriminate between the good and bad. In our new countries we sometimes find worthy men elected to office; but to insure success they are compelled to be silent upon the vices of the people, who are to elect them.

But in a Government of universal suffrage no one, however imminent in talents & worth, can long retain popularity, for demagogues will always be ready to rob him of it. We need not go back to the history of ancient republics to prove this fact. Our own history will present instances in which even a Washington and his co-parties were stigmatized as vile, enemies of their country and corruptions of the principles of republicanism, because they foresaw the fatal tendency of the political doctrines of the French revolution of 1790. What progress these principles have made in the U. States since the days of Washington, is known to the casual observer.

May
7 Sunday m. fair with pleasant air, and wind NW, PM cloudy and a slight thunder shower occurred from N.W.—the first this season. Fair at sun set.

Thun
der
shower } Monday. m. fair, brisk NW wind and the day fair, air rather cool.

8 Plum blossoms begin to show, and some of the maples, their foliage, but we have, as yet, had no hot weather, or such as to render a fire in my room, un necessary. but my animal thermometer is not a very good discrimination.

Plum
blos
soms
appear } In the afternoon the atmosphere became hazy & the air cool.

9 Tuesday. m cloudy and rainy Wind N, and the day mostly cloudy.

Gen.
Court
still in
session } No account of the close of the session of the General Court is yet seen. It has however, granted in the two houses, the petition for the Rail Road up Deerfield River, through Hoosac Mountain to the west line of the state, towards Troy.

Green
field &
Troy R.
Road } The grant no doubt was made on the ground that the charter grant would be the most ready way to put the project to test by placing it on the prop a test, the raising of the money. Another grant is, we understand, is made for a rail road from Greenfield to Grouts corner.

Re
marks
on } We of Deerfield would not lay a shovel on the way of either road, but we regret to see men so far forgetting the rules of prudence & probability, as to imagine that a hole of 4 miles, or more, can be bored through Hoosac mountain, suitable for rail road cars, & comely passengers through without suffocation in the smoke of the engines. The opinions of Engineers has been taken in relation to the [] but among them, is there one experienced in such an undertaking?

May

9

Tun
nels
through
Moun
tains
fallacy
of on
R. Roads

The truth is, no Engineer, however experienced, can determine with any degree of certainty, the progress and expense of a tunnel of the extent of the one proposed through Hoosac mountain; and I think I may safely predict, that, "if attempted, it will be abandoned, and the projections sadly disappointed. Imaginary data may be assigned and calculations made, but both as uncertain as the wind and storms of the season. We do not say such a perforation is an im
possibility, but when we consider the plan for and design of the present project, they appear at once as their Utopian character.

Were there no rail road from Boston to Albany, and Massachusetts should offer her whole resources in aid of one, we might look for a route over the mountains; but we believe that the wildest imagination would not look to a tunnel through four miles of Hoosac mountain.

Where such obstructions are found to rail routs, the plain language as heard "Thus far shalt thou come,
and no further."

10

Congress
still in
session

Wednesday. m. cloudy wind N.W.
the day generally hazy & cool,
Congress still continues in session & nothing have we seen which indicates a close; A history of the transactions of that body from the commencement of the Mexican war, will present an anomaly of a singular character.
Mr Polk it is generally agreed, began the war, and without justifiable cause, and in defiance of the Constitution His object was clearly seen by his electors. namely the acquisition of

May
10

Strict
ures
on

territory, on which his party had previously fixed their eyes, and was ready to pounce, the instant a favorable opportunity offered. But the blindness of the Whigs of Congress was not anticipated. It was believed that so violent an infringement of the Constitution, would not be submitted to in silence. But all this we have seen, and in nearly every measure Mr. Polk has recommended prosecuting the conquest, Congress has complied, by strong majorities in both houses. What patriot [] this course? We hope the Presidents outrageous stride of the Constitution, will not be drawn into a precedent in future disputes with neighboring nations. That honorable exceptions were found among the members, though few, is gratifying; but that strong majorities in Congress, are found to rush blindly into the President's scheme, is lamentable, and forebodes the destruction of the Constitution and a departure from to abandon every principle of political morality. History, we trust, will not be silent on the transaction though there may be a disposition in American writers to gloss it over. The advance of General Taylor's force from the Nueces to the Rio Grand will never admit of disguise: the movement was a calculated one, and, the acquisition of the northern part of Mexico, the object. Sophistry may turn & twist words at its pleasure, but this object can never be disguised or rendered doubtful.

11

a mob
in Paris

Thursday. M. rainy, with wind N & NE the day continued generally rainy By the arrival, at Boston of the steam ship Britannia, we have intelligence of an attempt in Paris to put down the provincial government, on the 16th ult. Through the influence of Ledru Rollin & a club of socialists, a mass of 150,000 assembled in the Charge de Mars crying at "Down with Lamartin away with the Provincial Government!" The military force was called out to the amount

May

11

Ominous }

of 100,000 men to defend the government by which the mob were intimidated and at length dispersed. This may be the beginning of a reign of terror. But at any rate it proves that in the old populous cities of Europe a portion of the people lack the requisite virtues of freemen.

Compo

sition

of the mob }

This mob was, no doubt made up of the dregs of society, which always abound in old nations, whose ideas of liberty are but licentiousness and unrestrained as free governments be must be divested of the mob spirit, and licentiousness must be restrained. The Provincial Government

Task of

the new

Govern

ment }

may not be aware of the task it has undertaken. Without a military force they could not exist for a day.

Whatever confidence this government has reposed in the patriotism and good sense of the middling class of people of France we think that confidence was shaken on the appearance of the Paris mob.

The men composing the Government m[a]y be intelligent and honorable, and acting, as they suppose, for the welfare of their country; but it is possible, that while looking at the bright side of community, they have not duly considered the dark cloud, which rises from the sinks & stews of all old populous cities, where knowledge & virtue are at a low ebb. That the middling c[l]ass of the people of France possess the knowledge requisite for a free government, is hoped; and the hope would be strengthened were the excesses of the former revolution forgotten and symptoms of reform were more clearly seen.

12

Close of

Session

of G.C. }

Friday. M fair, wind N. and air cool; the day fair with ma[n]y clouds, broken Our general Court closed its session on Wednesday evening last, after sitting 127 days.

May
13

Blos
soms}

The
treaty
with
Mexico}

Re
marks
on

Saturday. M. fair, wind South
and day fair, with [] clouds
Apple blossoms appear; also on the
Cherry trees; but the weather remains
rather cool for the season.

The latest accounts from Mexi
co, say the ratification of the treaty
makes slow progress. What can
she expect to gain by delay? She
must have learned that to claim
rights which she is not able to de
fend, is in vain; and when Mr
Polk ordered General Taylor to advance
from the Nueces & invade her territory, she
ought no longer to have been at a
loss for the cause of the movement.

Perhaps she thought that the sober
sense of our people would recoil at the
injustice of the invasion, and restore
her rights: If so, she mistook our ava
rice; but she must have seen the
readiness with which our Congress ac
ceded to every measure Mr. Polk re
commended for prosecuting the war he
had so wickedly commenced. If she
still doubted the object of the war,
the sending of the agricultural regiment of Col.
Stevens to California ought to have re
moved the doubt. In short, every
movement of the war on our part,
demonstrates the design of the war.
Viz. the seizure of one third or an half
of the Mexican territory, and Gen Soccts
expedition to Vera Cruz, was to render the
Mexicans more submissive. In all this
Mr Polk has acted the part assigned
him by the party who placed him in
the White house. The plan was how
ever, of an older date, as is obvious
form the declaration of Mr Monro
when he was President, and since
reiterated by Mr Polk. If in any in
stance Mr P. has varied from the wishes
of his party, it is in the purchase
money promised to the Unions, when

May
13 when the whole of the demanded territory was to be held as an indemnity for the expense of "heating the poker"

14 Sunday m. fair, wind W. and cold and day similar.

Cold weath er } It would be difficult from any known laws, to explain what appears to me to be a fact, namely the decrease of the temperature of the summer season; but if my recollections for 60 or 70 years can be relied on, the fact is clearly established; and if this be admitted, is the change to be explained by the clearing our country of its woods? At the first view of this process, it would appear that heat of summers must increase by admitting the suns rays to penetrate the earth's surface; but, I am apprehended that evaporation from the surface is increasing by opening the ground, and it is known that evaporation always lowers the temperature of a surface from which it rises. In dense woods the suns rays are shielded and of course the evaporation is less than from the open ground. For the effects of evaporation on temperature, see the experiments of Dr. Wells, as detailed in his Treatise on Dew, which I think throws much light on the subject.

Re marks on } As further evidence of the decreas[e] of our summer temperature, the decrease of our thunder showers may be addressed—the latter I think cannot be denied by critical observers.

Evap oration effects of }

Infre quency of thun der show ers }

May
15

Monday m. fair, wind W
and brisk air softened since
yesterday, the day fair.
The Springfield Daily Republican
of the 12th instant says, "Opposition
to the Western Rail road Corporation
appears to be one of the great cha-
racteristics of the past Legislature; and
this probably operated in favor of
the Tunnel road as much as any
original love for the new project
itself" and, it adds: "It friends were
fortunate in coming forward with
their request at a moment when
opposition to the rival corporation
was at its height. Another year per-
haps they would not have fared so
well" But the old corporation
need not be alarmed; for many years
will elapse before a tunnel will be bored
four miles through Hoosac Mountain, and
sufficient ventilations be prepared to con-
vey the smoke of the engines from the
suffocating hole. True indeed, the grant
of the Charter indicates hostility to the
western road, not difficult to explain
But if the Legislature really believed
the project practicable with a capi-
tol of three & half millions of dollars, we think
they have evinced more knowledge of
Utopian than of physical Geography
and the principles of mining.

16

Tuesday m. cloudy, wind South & the
day cloudy. Nothing interesting
appears from abroad; but we
look eagerly for accounts from the
revolutionary storm in Europe. which
is raised to prostrate all the old gov-
ernments in that quarter of the Gloobe
We of the free states in America
may express joy at the relief viz
the oppressed in Europe; but with
what

May
16

what consistency people of the slave states gain in the jubile, while they hold in the chains of bondage from two to three millions of their fellow man, who are bought & sold like cattle, and goaded to labor by the whip of their masters, compared to which the oppression of the most callous tyrant in Europe or Asia, are tender mercies.

An "institution" so fraught with injustice & barbarity will not, and cannot be long, be sustained by the people of a republic.

17

Wednesday. m. partially fair
wind N.W. and day fair
Elizabeth retuned from Halifax

with her Father Henry. (afternoon)
From the various accounts from Europe, it is extremely doubtful what will be the final result of the present movements. In France there is a variety of publical sentiment, and whether the nation will submit to the dictation of the prime movers in Paris, is uncertain

The Convention for forming a Constitution ought not be under the influence or fears of the "social clas[es]" of that city, and it would act wisely in assembling at some other place where public opinion might be expressed undisturbed by the tocsin. But whatever of evidence the constitution may embrace, it will find but feeble stability without the sanction of the dictatorial spirit of Paris; and when the people become divided into parties, under violent demagogues than elections will partake of corruptions not less ruinous, than our own country now exhibits in miniature.

Euop
ean
accounts}

Re
marks
on

May
18 Thursday M. fair, wind W.
and day clear & pleasant.

arriv
al of
my son }
 Mr Henry left us in the morning
for Halifax, and PM my son Ar
thur arrived by rail cars, about
4 o'clock His route via Whitehall
Troy and Springfield—a circuitous
route from Burlington Vt but is
preferred to the direct stage route via
Bellows falls and mount Holly.

mecha
nical
improve
ments }
 Distance of places has become a sort
of negative quantity. But as if de
sirous of more rapidity, we now
attempt to convey intelligence
hundreds of miles by electrical shock
yet in these & other improvements
in the mechanic arts, let us bear
in mind, that man creates no new
laws, but merely applies those of
nature to his purposes. The pow
ers of steam, electricity, chemistry

[] have existed form their
first establishment by an omni
potent primer mobile, and now
has only discovered their appli
cation. When he attempts to go be
yond this, he meets disappointment
and at once perceives his littleness
Let him then, with modesty for his
guide, keep within his limits, and
he will find no want of powers es
sential to his place and his happiness.

Hint
con
cern
ing }
 Friday m. fair, wind S.W. and
pleasant air, giving life to vegetation
the day continued the same and
something like summer weather
much the warmest we have had
this season. Cloud in the
south, at sun set, gave some
thunder, but distant.

19

May
 20
 Thun
 der }
 Gen
 eral
 Court
 expense
 of to
 this state }

 Saturday. m cloudy, wind SW
 the day became fair before noon.
 and continued so with an oc
 casional overspreading of clouds, with
 some thunder.
 A writer of the Hampshire and
 Franklin Express (Amherst) complains
 of the expense of our General Court
 in the late Sessions, which he puts
 down at upwards of \$86,000
 indeed an alarming sum for
 this small state. But the writer
 seems not to be aware of the real
 cause of the expenditure: Viz. the 1st
 representation of towns instead
of districts, and the to slow mode
 of transacting the business under
 the present Rules & Orders of the
 two houses. Under a proper
 representation and judicious
 rules, we think one half of
 the time and expense, might be
 saved, and the rights of the peo
 ple equally well guarded. We
 have touched occasionally upon
 this subject, and we think it
 is time for the people to look
 to it. The sum of \$6,000
 dollars, we think, hardly covers
 the expense of the session with
 its appendages. Errors that
 admit of a remedy, should not be
 continued because they have been
 adopted; nor on the other hand
 should innovations be attemp
 ed long practice without a
 probability of benefit.
 The great error in our Legislature
 business I concur to be the intrust
 ing so many petitions to the decision
 of Committees.

May 21 Sunday. m. cloudy
 wind N. but soon fair. and
 cloudy alternately, with some
 rain, small showers, with
 thunder

22 Monday. m. cloudy, wind
 N. the day cloudy with some rain.
 In the morn my son, wife &
 little Charles, with their Brother
 Henry, who arrived last night, Sat
 out for Burlington Vt, via Spring
 field Greenbush, Troy and Sar
 atoga Springs. They take this
 circuitous route in preference to
 stage coach passages. From the
 Springs they are to proceed to Glens
 Falls to attend the erection of
 stones at my Daughter Fanny's Grave
 then by Sandy-Hill to Whitehall,
 & there in steamboat to Burling
 ton. Mr Henry is on a tour of
 observation, & thinks of visiting
 Montreal. The party will reach
 Saratoga Springs before sun set where
 they expect to tarry two or three days.
 to swig the water, which nature
 pours out from her mysterious
 laboratory, unabated in its pe
 culiar properties.

Sara }
 toga }
 springs }

Re }
 marks }
 on }

A few days may be agreeably
 spent at the Springs during the hot
 season, when the waters are
 but relished, added to which is
 the intercourse with people from
 all parts of the United States and
 other parts of the world. If when the

May
22 throng is great, some of the depre
dators of society are found, they
are generally few, and the great
est portion are respectable mem
bers of society and such I have
always found them in my visits to the
place, not however very inviting from
its location on a soil rather Com
mon and forbidding.

23 Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind N E
the day generally clouded.
Recent accounts say that
our troops in Mexico, begin
now to feel the effects of the
climate, and that General
Twiggs estimates the loss of
men about equal to a Regi
ment per month. This is not
a greater loss than I had antic
ipated, among the volunteer
corps of the northern states

Anti Aware of this effect of their
cipated } hot season the Mexicans may
be willing to prolong the nego
tiations for a peace. Should
severe sickness occur, our Army
might be annihilated, or rendered
incapable of defending the con
quered part. At any rate it is
not to be doubted, that the troops
are looking with longing eyes
to their homes, which they left
while under the blind delusion
of infatuated democracy, com
mon to wild young men, who
learn only by fatal experience
The loss by sickness we may
never fully know, but after the
war we shall probably hear
something of its distresses in appaul
ing colors. But the []

The The
War War
Spirit Spirit
Common } Common
to the to the
young young

May 23 will be lost on another generation who will again learn it by the same fatal process: and soldiers' will never be found wanting in a war however unjust & unnecessary. Even the people of France seem to have forgotten the disastrous campaign of Napoleon, in Russia in 1812, as well as in the subsequent events of the War.

In France } From this disposition in man, may we infer that war is not to be wholly avoided so long as the nations of the world form separate Governments and possess different interests? How faint then, are the hopes of those who are looking for universal peace, and even flattering the implements of war shall be beaten into plow shares, and spears into pruning hooks? Indeed the world seems this happy consummation. That we in America, where millions of the human race are held in the chains of bondage, are near this happy condition is too absurd to admit of a moments indulgence. and our present war with Mexico, shows our sense of justice and humanity, towards a nation unable to defend its rights. If such injustice is to form the basis of our great ness and political character what Patriot would consent to partake of its horrors?

24 Wednesday m cloudy, wind SW
 The cloudy weather commenced last Sunday in the afternoon & has continued to this time. The day continued cloudy and

May 24 Gen. Scotts arriv al	until the clap, with some rain General Scott arrived at Elizabeth town NJ last Sunday, and joined his family. He returns a <u>veteran Gen</u> <u>eral</u> , but a <u>disgraced commander</u> a problem to be solved by demo cracy.
25	<u>Thursday.</u> m Still cloudy, wind <u>South.</u> At noon the sun looked upon us and the rest of the day was fair From Sunday to PM to 12 oclock the day=90 hours, during which the sun was seen but a few minutes, and considerable rain fell. In the shower which occurred late in the afternoon on Sunday, the papers say that the lightning struck in various places, as far south as New Haven but no lives were lost. Such a pro tracted observation of the sun is uncom moncan, here of late years. During most of the time I found a fire agreea ble. After so long an absence of the sun's rays, Their return is cheering. "O Sun! Whence thy everlasting light?" (<u>Ossians Carthon</u>)
Re flections	Art thus self-balanced in the Heavens, a dust thou revolve with they planets around some other body unknown to us? When we thus attempt to expand our thoughts, we soon fall back and feel our bitterness, and are irri sistably led to acknowledge the existence of a great wise & incomprehendable Being, [] [] & Governs the Universe, by unerring laws, which require an amendment by experiment

May Friday m. cloudy, wind
 26 SW, Sun out at noon.
 P.M. generally cloudy, with
 some slight rain from showers
 27 Saturday. m. fair, wind NE
 the day fair with some haze.
 The Loco foco Convention, held
 this week at Baltimore, for the
 nomination of a candidate for
 the Presidency, made choice of
 Gen Cass of Michigan. A man
 well educated to carry on the
 schemes of democracy. The Con
 vention well knew this candidates
 and his hostility to Great Britain.
 We had supposed Cuba would
 be the next object of acquisition,
 but from this selection it appears
 the Canadas may be the next
 to receive the fraternal hug, and
 then the British West India
 Islands: Though the slave states
 are not very desirous of North
ern acquisitions, they do not
 rest at case, so long as Canada
 furnishes an asylum for their
 absconding slaves, and Delinda
est Carthago, is their motto.
 The present condition of Great
 Britain may expedite the plan
 and no one is more ready for
 it, than the proposed Candidate
 Possibly, however, the people may
 throw off their blinder, and
 listen less to their Demagogues who
 would plunge them into ruin, for their
 own promotional places. In

Loco
 foco
 Con
 vention

nomi
 nation
 of Gen
 Cass

Fur
 ther
 plan
 of Con
 quest

May
27

Popu
larity }

How
sustain
ed. }

In a letter to the Convention Mr Polk declined a re nomination and expressed a willingness to retire to private life, the wisest act of his administration, which has not been strewed with flowers to the extent he had anticipated. Though faithful to his party he may have perceived that his popularity was not likely to continue through a second term, while so many aspirants were looking to his place, and numerous others to offices under a new administration, in which, a new set of favorites would be putting in their claims to the “spoils”. Under these impressions Mr Polk may have learned that faithfulness to his party is no guaranty of continued popularity; and that the “post of honor is a private station.”

Should the nominee of the Convention, succeed in obtaining the White house, he will be surrounded by hordes of greedy applicants for offices, and finding it impossible to gratify the whole his popularity will in turn } give way for another who will bestow, his favors on another class of sycophants; and “The same ambition can destroy or save, And make a patriot as it makes a knaves”¹⁴

¹⁴ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

May 28 Sunday M. cloudy but sun soon out with wind SW; the day fair, with occasional clouds on a general haze over the sky

29 Monday. M. Cloudy, wind SW, air cool and the day fair with brisk wind.

Demolition of the Antiquated House in this village.

Demo
lition
of the
old
House } This old tenement having being become inconvenient for residence, the owner, Mr Henry K. Hoyt, is now taking it down to give place room for erecting a new house on the site. The precise age of the House is not known, but we believe it was erected seven or eight years after Philips war. When Lothrop's company was destroyed at Bloody-Brook in 1675, the inhabitants left the village

Its
histo
ry } returned to Hadley, in Hatfield, ~~and it was~~ and it was burned by the Indians. In 1677 a small number of English attempted the building of Houses, but were attacked and captured by the enemy. In the winter of that year the General Court Ordered "That a garrison be sent to Deerfield and that the inhabitants prepare to [—] build to rebuild the town in a compact order, and that the inhabitants repair there this winter, that 20 soldiers be sent there"

But it appears no successful efforts were made to rebuild until 1682. If the present house was built in 1684 its age at this time, is 164 years, it may be less where the people of the village saw that the old house was to be demolished, they assembled and appointed a Committee to point out a plan to preserve

May 29	<u>relic</u> for future generations
Plan to pre serve it	The Committee after various plans proposed the one included in the annexed <u>printed sheet</u> , and distributed it as a circular to sundry gentlemen; but though a few responded to the circular, and offered their aid, the sum was totally inadequate, and the plan was given up.
Fail ure of it.	The house will be known only by history & the <u>views</u> that have taken of it. But it is intended to preserve the Door containing the marks of the Indian hatchets, and some other interesting parts shewing the perforations of musket balls.
State of the tim ber in the Old house	On taking down the building, the timber was found to be generally in a good state of preservation excepting a part of the sills; the brick in the walls and chimney, the same. In the structure of the frame peculiarities were observed, differing from the modern modes of framing. Under a wooden casing on the side of the front door an <u>iron horse shoe</u> was found suspended by a spike or nail, which it is supposed had some relation to the notion that it was a protection against the prevalent notion of the time in relation to <u>witchcraft</u> . The house was standing at the time of the <u>Salem massacre</u> , and if the people have believed in the efficacy of the iron shoe, they exhibited more wisdom than sanguinary Court of the County of Essex.
Relict found	

May 29 Born in this old mansion
 on the 31st day of December 1765
 and the residence of my minority
 it never failed to bring to my
 mind interesting reminiscences Here
 I listened to the stories of our
 fathers, of Indian depredations,
 of suffering humanity, of hair's
 breadth escapes: Here too I listen
 ed to the thrilling events of our
 revolutionary war, and learned
 the name of Washington & his co pat
 riots, and here was taught lessons
 from industrious & respectable
 parents, whose admonitions
 should have been better regarded
 Here too, while my father kept
 a public house, I met with trav
 elers of various characters, the
 political gentleman, the indust
 rious man of business, and the
 bar-room tippler, affording ex
 amples worthy of imitation, or
 those to be shunned. All evid
 ence of the manners and customs
 of the times. I might here re
 late many anecdotes fresh in
 my recollection, as connected with
 the old Indian house. With these
 recollection, it will not be doubted
 that I feel regret at the destruction
 of the venerable monument.

30 Tuesday m cloudy with light
 rain, and S.W. wind. The day
 continued the same We
 have a remarkable propor
 tion of cloudy weather.

May
30
Europe
in a
pre
turbed
state

Liber
ty in
France

Its
success
doubt
ful

Accounts from Liverpool of the 13th instant, represents Europe in a perturbed state, war in Italy, Prussia, Denmark and insurrection in Prussian Poland, and it appears that a general war in Europe can not long be avoided. France is making progress in the formation of a Constitution but her ultra democrats may plunge her into war with some of her neighboring nations. If however she remains in peace a few years, and until her parties are organized, like our own, she will find a perpetual war at the ballot boxes; & if she is prepared for a republican government, then I am much mistaken. Her present leaders may be well disposed, but are they aware of the influence of denying demagogues who will soon be seeking for plans regardless of the public ideal? Thus has our Country for an example Under the blinding shout for liberty the principles of radicalism may be covered up and the people be lead to excesses they had not dreamed of. When the people of France become nearly equally balanced on political points, it needs not the gift of prophecy to foretell their condition. The first step towards republicanism is political virtue, and if the people of France possess it, they differ from the other old nations of Europe

May
30

Process
of Cor
ruption

For our own country, under a Constitution strictly republic, and where all should be harmony, what a clashing we see at the ballot boxes where the best informed men, especially if they possess property, are deemed aristocrats enemies of the people, and the vociferous demagogues the pure friend of his Country. When a people are thus imbued with popular corruption, they are evidently on the road to ruin. This contamination ~~course~~ began in our Country in the administration of Washington, and he was charged with having [] [] the principles of republican ism." Alas! sainted Heroe, hadst thou lived at this day you would have been deemed unfit for a place of public trust. This growing spirit is the Curse of our Country, and the unenlightened patriot foresees the consequences. But "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." and admonition useless.

31

Wednesday m. fair, wind N.W. & brisk, air cool; the day cloudy & fair by turns. We hear little important from Congress on Mexico of late, and whether the treaty will be ratified by the latter is a question, but what will they gain by delay? Are they waiting for the sickly season to further thin our ranks? Perhaps [] is their policy.

June

1

The
weath
er }
}

Thursday. M fair, wind brisk from N.W., and cold; the day continued the same, & pretty full from clouds, and wind brisk Up to this time we have had no hot weather, or such as to render winter clothing uncomfortable; nor has the month of May exhibited its usual pleasant aspect. But as the sun is near the northern tropic and increasing its meridian altitude we may look for a change to warm air.

Dimi
nution
of tempe
rature }
}

If it be true that our summer temperature is diminishing, the cause is not to be sought in any known principles of astronomy; for the motion of the Earth on its axis, and its revolution in its orbit, are in variable, and the slow diminution of the inclination of the equator to the ecliptic is too low to produce a visible effect in a limited time; and this diminution, according to La Place, will not alway continue, or ever produce a coincidence of the planes of the equator & ecliptic.

2

Friday. m. cloudy, wind NW & air cold: at noon fair and so continued indicating more agreeable weather. The effects of this cold air on my defective machine are unfavorable, & I feel them more sensibly than in the uniform cold of winter season.

June Saturday. m fair, but
 3 hazy & cool, wind; the day
 } was mostly cloudy, but the air softened
 } Mr Ashman sends me his
 } speech on the Revolution in France
 Ash and emancipation of its Colonies.
 man which I have read with great
 speech } satisfaction. His replies to the []
 } [] assertions of Mr Bayly of
 } Virginia are cutting & truly ap
 } propriate. Mr Ashmans whole
 } course as connected with the war
 } with Mexico has evinced a spirit &
 } force in but a few of the present
 } numbers of Congress. Had there been
 } a majority of such men, in the two hous
 } es, Mr Polk's unconstitution war with
 } Mexico, would not have been sustained
 } for a moment. But alas! but few
 } of his determined characters were found
 } in the two branches of Coness. Mr
 } Ashman's course must be highly satis
 } tary to his constituents and applaud
 } ed by every patriot within the U.
 } States, and our Congressional District
 } may well be proved of its Representation.

Europe The latest accounts from Europe are
 still far from flattering; the revolutionary
 on a whirl wind still prevails, and
 whirl } in some instances bloody conflicts
 wind are said to have occurred. What will
 } be the result is to be seen. The
 } national assembly of France is
 } forming a republican constitution
 } but if amidst the shouts of liberty
 } and equality, the best system is
 } adopted, it will be unprecedented.
 } But however wise the plan may be

June 3
 The French Constitution } if based upon universal suffrage,
one thing is certain: within a few years, the people will divide into parties, under ambitious leads and perpetual war will prevail at the ballot boxes, probably more destructive than at our own. This contest by raising the passions, will increase in violence. Unprincipled men desirous of places, will side with popular party, or that which is most easily managed by deception, and the enlightened patriot foreseeing the evil, will endeavor to check its progress. This will increase the exertions of the unprincipled aspirant who will find nothing more powerful, in effecting his designs, than to create an impression in his party that their patriots are aristocratical, and enemies to the liberty of the people. This impression once fixed men of high talents and integrity would ~~are~~ be repudiated, and those of opposite characters are chosen to places of trust. In a government where all are eligible to offices this is the direct course, and the only remedy is in the virtue & intelligence of the people; and on no other basis can the French people maintain a republic in its purity, Are they thus prepared?

Its probable course }
 Repudiation of good men }

June	<u>Sunday</u> m. fair, wind N.
4	and air agreeable the day much the same.
5	<u>Monday</u> m cloudy, light rain and wind N and the day continued cloudy. foggy.
Peace with Mexico }	We are informed that the pending treaty has been ratified by the Mexican Government, and of course Mr. Polk and his party have obtained the territory they had on view, when Gen. Taylor was ordered to invade Mexico in the advance to the Rio Grand. Mr Polk has attempted to disguise this movement and design by more pretences, but none but the willfully blind have been deceived.
Mr Polks first object accom plished }	The money stipulated to be paid to Mexico, by the treaty May be paid in good faith; but our democracy will very readily find means to evade it by getting up some new dispute with that country; and that this may be the case is more probable than that the promise will be fulfilled. at any rate, our democracy will be slow in the payment of money for a territory, which they claim as an indemnity for the expenses of the war. But Mr Polk must be paid " <u>for heating the poker</u> ". A young democrat the <u>genuine school</u> has expressed his regret to me at the terms of the treaty, and no doubt he agrees with many of a more advanced age who hold it or

June
5

Lan-
guage
of demo-
cracy

On the
peace

Fu-
ture
plans

Ultra
Demo-
cracy

following language. What! should we, after so much brave fighting, and the conquest of the Capital and other cities, give them up to the rascally Mexicans, who audaciously opposed our invasion and killed so many of our brave volunteers! No! We should hold the Mexicans in subjection until they have learned the enlightened lessons of our democratic schools, and then admit them into our union; but should they be found averse to the ~~to the~~ study, we should compel them to embrace our notions of liberty; Besides, their rich mines ought not be lost sight of, since they might be convenient in furnishing "a hard money circulation."

Other plans if conquest are kept under the veil, but now & then heated zeal breaks through the cover, and the possession of Cuba, Jamaica

and the British provinces on our north and northeast quarters is developed, in no equivocal terms; and the nomination of

Gen. Cas to the Presidency, brings to view some of the future schemes of our ultra democrats, by which a portion of the people seem willing to be led, blind folded. Should honorable men be restored to confidence, Ultra democracy would cease to prowl upon the public welfare.

But so long as the yelp of this path is listened to by the people a political whirlwind will continue to disturb the repose and happiness of our country? And

since

June
5

Remarks
on Gov
ernment

Popu
larity
unstable

since their yelping packs are found in all free countries, who believes that France under her new government, will be exempt from them? Granting to M. Lamartine all the virtues it is said he possesses, should he be placed at the head of the nation. Would his popularity outlive one term?

With the purest intentions and the most faithful services, he might find a powerful party opposite to him, and be repudiated as an aristocrat, and an enemy to the people. Even our Washington was thus vilified by a party who were tired with "hearing him called the just" Such is man when unrestrained by wholesome laws, and political virtue, on moral obligations often wanting in uncultivated minds, or those which have received a faulty education.

The republican doctrine, that all political power resides in the people, is true, but this power is not always rightly applied; and a majority may imbibe principles incompatible to a just & rational government; and when this is the case, the majority may become as despotic as an absolute monarchy. History furnishes examples of this kind, and none more base than [] exhibited in the first revolution of France when the people knew nothing of a republic but the name. When a

June
5

people become highly corrupt and lose sight of political virtue. they are evidently unfit for a republican government.

In the formation of such governments it is an error to suppose unbounded freedom is to be allowed, since some individual rights must be relinquished for the good of the whole. By this relinquishing rights we can spare, we enhance the value of the remainder, and in fact obtain new rights.

But in all communities, to be right men must be just & virtuous; and while these qualifications are duly regarded society moves smoothly on. That we of the United States, have, in a degree, lost sight of these preserving principles is evident from our present political divisions, which seem to be in increasing as we become olden.

Under the spurious name of radical reforms, we are in danger of loosing the sustaining principles of free governments, the most threatening symptom of which is, the violence of party spirit, kept up by the influence of unprincipled pretenders of liberty. who would sacrifice our dearest interests to obtain "the spoils"

6

Tuesday m. cloudy, wind NE but fair before noon & wind SW; and the day fair, but many clouds the air cool
 The Whig Convention of the U States is to assemble at Philadelphia, to [] for

Whig
Conven-
tion }

June for the selection of a candidate for the
 6 Presidency, after the expiration of Mr Polks
 to meet } term. Mr Webster, Clay & Mr Lane
 at Phi are the prominent men. Mr Webster
 ladel no doubt, is the man who should
 phia receive the votes of the Convention.

 Probable } But his residence in Massachusetts
 result } and his eminent talents, will prob
 ably prevent his selection, in
 which case Mr. Clay will probably
 be the nominee. who being an
 inhabitant of a slave state will be
 more congenial to southern whigs.

 Demo } For vice President Gen. Taylor may
 cratic } be named, but who will be the
 rapid } next Executive head is very doubtful. In the
 ity Loco foco selection of Gen. Cass the
 plans of the party no doubt are well
 understood; namely, the accession of Cuba
 Jamaica, and the British provinces on
 the N. & N.E. of the U. States. The mo
 ment Great Britain is shorn of
 locks by the revolutionary move
 ment in Europe our democracy will
 be ready for the execution of the plan,
 and it will be easy to contrive a
 scheme for the accession of Cuba and
 such other W. India Islands as
 our cupidity may require. But
 the time may come when France will
 claim a share in the spoils.
 7 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind NE
 and cool air, the day the same.
 Last evening a letter from Elizabeth
 at Vergennes, giving an account of
 the tour to that place and the transaction

June
7
Letter from my Son and wife

Grave stones visited in Glens falls cemetery

Reflec tions

utility of mon uments

at Glens falls, in placing stones at my daughters grave, which with the aid of Mrs. Arms. She thinks is certainly [] the embankment not being entirely demolished. The head stone 23 inches wide & 4 feet 2 inches long—Cost of the stones \$18.75. She sends me a copy of the inscription, which appears to be the same I furnished Mrs. Arms & her son Lewis. (See page 107) The stones, when erected, she says, appeared well, This is the last respect we can show to the deceased; but as the distich of the inscription say:
 “O'er the cold turf where they pale relics sleep”
 If this grave-yard, recalls meon cholly sensations, so does the Country in its vicinity, from the incidents of the war of 1755. About 6 miles north, on the road to Lake George, is the ground where Col. Ephraim Williams and many other valuable men, from our section of the province fell in an ambuscade on the 8th of September of that year, and where there bones rest in obscurity in the primitive woods, about a quarter of a mile south of bloody pond. Other interesting events might be noted for which see my Antiquarian Researches (Chapters 17, 18, & 19)
 Of the utility of monuments for the dead there may be a difference of opinion but I believe that mankind in general are gratified in viewing them.

June They recall recollections of
7 the deceased more forcibly than
 any other testimonials. On enter
 a grave yard where some imminent
men is interred, we eagerly Search
for the spot, and if no memo
rial marks it, we doubt the
taste of his co-temporaries.

Their } effect } Who can visit the tombs of
Washington, Franklin or other
noted patriots, without use
full reflections? And in stand
ing over the last home of those
of less elevated walks of life,
who have sustained commend
able characters, we are impressed
with reflections of a useful
character. On visiting mount
Auburn, in Cambridge, or other
moderately ornamented cemeteries
of the country, we feel these
useful sensations to a high de
gree. In this view, monu
ments for the dead are useful
to the living. But let them be
moderate in their expense and
durable, and always within the
means of those who erect them:
extravagant structures add
nothing to the solemnity of the
view~

8 Thursday m. cloudy wind NE
 and cool air, which renders a fire
necessary in my room. PM partially
fair, air more mild, and, with
a shower of rain.

June 8 For about 19 days the weather has been uncommonly cloudy with considerable rain, and air cool, producing an unfavorable effect on my health

9 Friday m. fair, wind N, and the day was fair & cloudy alternately.

Letter to to A & E. } Wrote a letter to my connection at Vergennes Vermont, acknowledging the receipt of theirs of June 1st and 2d from that place, expressing my satisfaction at their operations at Glens-falls, in placing stones at my Daughter's Grave now almost obliterated & forgot ten by the people at the place Gens fall village is now a place of mercantile business. At the commencement of the French war of 1755 the country from Fort Edward to Lake George, was a wilderness. Soon after that war ended in 1763, a Mr Abraham Wing built a small house and barn at the place village which was burned by a detachment [] under Major Carleton in 1780; but most of the buildings have been erected since the peace of 1783. No part of our country has been so remarkable for military operations as this region, and a minute detail of the whole would fill a volume interesting to military men.
“Set where thou wilt thy foot, thou scarce can tread
Here on a spot, unhallowed by the dead”¹⁵

Glens falls village } 10 Saturday m. fair, wind SW the day was fair & cloudy with considerable wind and rather cool

¹⁵ Robert Southey. *The Poet's Pilgrimage to Waterloo.*

June
10
The Con
vention } We are informed that
Gen. Z. Taylor has been nom
inated for the Presidency by
the Whig Convention at
Philadelphia. His qualifi
cations are military, and
whether if elected, he will
find himself at home in
the White House is a problem
But he is supposed to be an
honest and honorable man, who

Gen
Taylor } will pursue the welfare of
the nom
inee } his country, without regard
to popular clamor. He may
now look for vituperation from
democracy, who will never for
give him for suffering himself to
be placed in opposition to their
favorite nominee who is ready
to carry out their plans & designs
to the farthest extent. If the Gen
eral should be successful in the Elec
tion, and put a check upon the
cupidity of the dominant party,

Re
marks } he would richly deserve the thanks
of the patriots of the country.
I have supposed Mr. Clay would
be choice of southern Whigs, but
it seems that nothing can stand
before military éclat. Mr. Webs
ter's eminent talents I had sup
posed, would bar him from the
White House.

In the selection of Gen. Taylor the
Convention consulted expediency, he be
ing the available candidate. We must
now try him, and hope he will not prove a Tyler.

June 11	<u>Sunday.</u> M. fair, wind NW and the day fair & wind brisk & at night cool. Hot weath- er seems to be tardy in its approach while the sun is near the tropic of Cancer, or its greatest de- clination, and [] Z.D. at noon only $19^{\circ} - 05'$ refraction
12	<u>Monday.</u> m. fair, wind NW brisk & cool, and the day fair and cool.
A Letter to a Cor- respond- ent	Wrote a letter to S.G. Kellogg, North Wardsboro, Vermont, giving him an account of the Hoyt family at his request, he claiming to be a descendant of my half sister, Han- nah (Hoyt) Hamilton, who he says was his Great-Grandmother. When I find a young man making such inquiries, I am willing to aid him if within my power.~
Gen Taylor nomi- nation	<u>Nomination of Gen. Taylor</u> to the Presidency. This selection is not received very cordially by the Whigs of Massachusetts who had fixed their eyes upon Mr Webster; but have they yet to learn that no eminent <u>Civilian</u> can can be popular in a Government based on <u>univer- sal suffrage</u> ? We had flattered our- selves that the <u>Southern</u> and <u>western</u> whigs were more enlight- ened in their views. But if whig principles do many of these gentle- men partake, beyond <u>the named</u> In general they are swept along needlessly by the éclat of a military mander.
South- ern Whigs	Of

June Of Gen. Taylor we are disposed
 12 to speak respectfully, since we believe
 him to possess many valuable qualities,
 but we have never supposed that
 bravery and desperate fighting were
 requisites in a President, residing
 in the White House. A man may
 be great in the field and little with
 cabinet. But as Gen. Taylor has
 received the nomination it could
 be folly for Massachusetts or any
 other Whig state, to oppose his election.
 That he possesses good talents is
 believed, and what is as import
 ant, he is, we believe, an honest and honora
 ble man, and has opinions of
 his own. By opposing his election
 we are in danger of promoting one
 to a high place, of a very different
 character, ripe for any ultra mea
 sures a popular course may dictate
 Gen Taylor is an inhabitant of
 Louisiana and there held as a
 Whig, but a small departure
 from loco foco doctrines confuse
 that name. in the southern states
 Millard Fillmore, of the State
 of New-York is the nominee for
 Vice-President.

13 Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind N.W.
 brisk & cool, but fair before noon
 the day continued fair & clear
 Disappointed in the nomination
 of Gass & Taylor some of the Whigs
 of Massachusetts, propose to have a
 state Convention at Worcester on the 28 of
 June current, to take such steps as the
 occasion shall demand in support of the
 principles to which they are pledged &c.

Re marks }
 another convention }

June 14
 Cham bers's In formation for the Peo ple }
Wednesday M. some cloudy wind NW, and soon fair; and still cool
Chamber's Information for the People, or Popular Encyclopaedia in 2 Vol. : price 5 dollars
 A pamphlet containing the principal articles of the work is circulated from which it appears that the work is valuable and contains upwards of 500 engraving: 100,000 set/vols. is said to have been sold in England
 The American Edition is said to have been edited by an accomplished American scholar, without impairing in the slightest degree the integrity of the original text; with and notes and ed, and such corrections, as were necessary to adapt it to the wants of the American public. As it will contain more recent discoveries, and improvements than are found in prior Encyclopaedias, it may be well to place it in our Libraries. For a young man of an inquiring mind and good intellects, this work is invaluable; and when they turn their studies to such works instead of party politics, they will become better citizens.
 The present studies of a portion of our young, is belittling to the mind, and demand a change, a change from the party politics of the day, as found in weekly publications, to pure scientific studies, to which very few turn their attention. Indeed in my intercourse with young men I rarely find one who has gone through a course of philosophical study, unless it to among those who have passed through

June 14 a collegiate course, and some of these are extremely limited in their views of expanded science, having spent their strength upon classical studies, the present fashionable resort of the learned of the day.
 PM The work having been brought to my room I perused it 2 vols & 5 about 1700 900 full pages in the whole

15 Thursday M Cloudy, wind SW but soon fair. The [] day fair & cloudy by turns & of measured temperature of air

16 Friday. M fair, wind W the day continued fair and the air begins to partake of the summer temperature, which, up to this time, I have not felt.

17 Saturday m. fair, wind SW and warm air; the day continued fair & summer like
 Our army is said be leaving Mexico for home; they generally embark at Vera Cruz. One account says 2000 of the southern part are sick, and doubtless many of the poor fellows will leave their bones in that region. And with a vertical sun now upon them they will be fortunate if they escape a sweep of the yellow fever: the remnant on reaching home, will feel no indication for another term of service under a Mexican sun, and its fatal mala ria

June 18 Sunday m. fair, and SW wind
 the day generally fair & warm but
 towards the close sky hazy: the weath-
 er is now of the usual summer tem-
 perature.

19 Monday m. Broken clouds; an
 early shower, wind S & variable
 PM overspreading clouds, showers
 and some thunder

20 Tuesday m. cloudy, wind SW & S;
 becoming fair late in the after-
 noon.
 Among the publications that have
 come under my eye of late year
 none have commanded more of
 my attention than Chamber's
 Information for the People; it
 is in reality a condensed Ency-
 clopaedia, and scarcely an arti-
 cle is found in it, uninteresting
 and no reading family able to
 spare five dollars should be found
 without it. Some of the articles
 are, of course, brief, but they serve
 as useful guides to more extended
 works; and at the same time
 present very useful essays on the
 subjects treated of. Were I to find
 fault with Mr [] Edition it
 would be in the smallness of the type.
 But by using a small type, this
 work is reduced to half the size
 & price of a coarse type. The work
 is not dear at 5 dollars; Its bind.
 is elegant strong & lettered.

Cham
ber's
work }
 Cha
racter
of }

June
21

The
nomi
nation}

oppos
ed }

Wednesday M fair; wind SW;
day fair.

Sun now at the tropic of
Cancer, and the days at the
longest. PM much covered with
scattering clouds.

The papers of the day are filled with
opinions on the nomination of Gen
Taylor to the presidency and many
of our eminent men seem in
clined to oppose it. The plea is
the General has not satisfactorily
expressed his sentiments on certain
points of policy deemed import
ant. This may be so, but that
he is opposed to some of those
of the loco foco candidate, we be
lieve, is well known, and that
in case of an election he would
not be inclined to plunge the
country into another unnecessary
war. Could the nomination be
changed to Mr Webster or Mr Clay,
with a probability of success, we
should be gratified. But an attempt
of this kind we think would insure
the success of Gen. Cass, whose course
of policy few will doubt. Who have
watched his movements, since he came
into public life. That his election to
the presidency, would be unfortunate to
our country cannot be doubted. Admit
ing him as capable, his strong
party prejudices destroy his useful
ness; and one of a different cha
racter is now wanted.

June 22 Our farm
ers }
 Thursday m. fair, wind W: af-
 ternoon generally cloudy.
 Our farmers are now about com-
 mence haying, and as the season
 has been rather moist the crop may
 be good; for Indian corn the
 weather has been too cool, but not
 for the cereal grains.

Remarks on our meadow }
 Since the first settlement of the
 town by the Dedham people, 177
 years have elapsed, and still the
 soil retains its fertility, though
 somewhat diminished since the
 enriching floods of the river have
 become less frequent; and these floods
 were probably become more rare
 as the country, bordering on the river
 is cleared of its woods. This di-
 minution of the waters of rivers
 is well known to naturalists, and
 is explained by the increase of
 evaporation from the surface
 of the ground where it is laid
 open to the sun.

23 Friday. M. fair, wind S.W. the
 day fair with may clouds
 frequently covering the sky, and
 the air warm.

The Mexican Army }
 We are looking for the return of the regiment of Mr
 Polk's army from Mexico, with
 the laurels won in forcing vi et
armis, about one half of that coun-
try from its rightful owners. The
tale to be told by the medical de-
partment will be fearful, and
we hope a check to future mili-
tary enthusiasm of the young &
inconsiderate, who learn only by
such experience. Small indeed will be
 the

June 23	the pleasure of the survivors in contemplating the feats they have performed in a war, not of <u>defense</u> of the rights of their country, but one of cupidity and palpable injustice, and a stain upon the ruling party in our country. At the close of the war of our Revolution the surviving soldiers might justly claim the honors of a War in defence of their dearest rights, but alas! in the present, nothing short of injustice and rapacity offers. While his tory details the battles fought, humanity will recoil at the base designs of the war.
24	<u>Saturday.</u> m. fair, wind NW & rather cool: the day continued fair, with & brisk wind & temperate air
25	<u>Sunday</u> M. fair wind W. and day fair, with agreeable air
26	<u>Monday.</u> M. fair, wind W; the day fair & pretty warm, and fine hay weather which our farmers are improving. And now since peace is concluded with Mexico we hope the peaceful arts will be fostered; and our people return to their proper employments Peace however, will be of short duration if the present dominant party continue in the ascendancy: <u>other accessions of territory</u> are still in view, & cupidity engorged

June 27 Tuesday M. thinly cloudy, wind SW
and soon clear throughout.
This day paid D Felton Collector
of Taxes for this town, the following
sums. my Tax 5.69
 son Arthur's 16.90
 \$22.59

Took receipt []
The taxes have increased since
last year: Why is this?
The taxes we pay are for the sup
port of civilization, and we
should not grudge them when duly assess
ed upon economical grounds.
Mr. Polk's war always excepted

28 Wednesday. M. cloudy but
soon fair, & wind SW; the
day fair with some broken clouds
and some thunder
Invited by Mr. Josiah Fogg
to ride to the village of Bloody
Brook I accepted his kind offer
and visited Col. Bryant & family
on their new farm, of 130 acres:
The soil is of a middling quali
ty, and with manure and thorough
cultivation might be made produc
tive. But the high price of labor is
a draw back upon the farmer, and
I fear he will feel the inconvenience.
Bloody Brook village presents a flourish
ing aspect, the houses in general painted
white and of a convenient size and the
frequent passage of rail road cars give
it a [] appearance. I noticed many
fields of hay in the vicinity and on
the road; also some new buildings erecting.

Ride to Bloody Brook }

June
28
Hay
gath
ering } Many loads of hay now passed my house this day, to the south, generally drawn by horses: in my young days we used cattle (oxen), or cattle and horses, and almost every farmer had his team and two wheeled cart carrying about a ton of hay.

Thunder
show
er } About $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 PM on overspread cloud gave us some sharp lightning, and rain followed by NE wind; but the winds in showers are always variable, sometimes veering them 180 degrees of the horizon. As I suppose from a descent of the air of the upper regions of the atmosphere causing a flow of wind on all directions from the centre of the shower.

Re
marks
on } According to Mr Espy's theory summer showers are produced by the ascent of warm air, as in the case of large fires on the earth's surface; but this ascent of the air must cease after the rain commences, and a downward currant succeed. Here we have an explanation of the cool air after a violent shower in hot weather.

29 Thursday m. cloudy but soon partial fair, and wind N the day was cloudy till PM then became fair & clear & pretty hot.

June Friday m. cloudy with rain and
 30 W. wind; the day generally
 cloudy and wet, wind veered
 to SW. We hear of no arrivals of
 part of our Mexican army at any of
 our ports. Vera Cruz, the port of
 embarkation, may at this season
 be subject to the yellow fever and
 render it dangerous to the troops,
 in which case they will remain
 upon the elevated country until
 the unhealthy season is past; and
 even there they may suffer great
 loss from the malaria of the country
 Poor fellows in their zeal for
 military service, little due they think
 of the loss of lives

July Saturday m cloudy & rainy
 1 wind SW; and the day the
 Parish } same. Paid my parish Tax to
 Tax collector Wright \$4.58~

French } By the latest account from France
 [] it appears that the establishment
 [] of a republican Government is
 not so easy a task as the lead
 ers seem to have supposed. If
 however they succeed in forming
 a constitution acceptable to a major
 ity of the people, my word for it,
 they will find in its operation
 difficulties of which they had not
 even dreamed. The leaders in this
 movement are doubtless enlightened men
 who are pursuing means they think
 will add to the happiness of the people;
 but are they aware of the deceptive acts
 of demagogues in misleading the simple
 men, found in all nations? We fear
 not.

July Sunday m. cloudy, wind NW
 2 the day was generally cloudy.
 3 Monday M. cloudy, wind NE
 and [—] continued cloudy with
 considerable rain (& wind changed
 to SW), until about 5 PM then be
 came fair. For 4 days in suc
 cession our farmers suspended their
 hay-making, from want of the sicca
 tive rays of the sun.
 4 Tuesday. m. fair, wind W. (variable)
 and brisk; day fair & rather cool air
 This being the anniversary of our In
 dependence our young people attended
 an address in the Brick Church; after
 which formed a procession & proceeded
 to the Academy yard & partook of a
 collation under an ornamented bower.
 a large portion of the young children
 of the town/village attended.
 The address was delivered
 by Rev. Mr. Wheatly Winkly of Boston and
 it is said, was skillfully adapt
 ed to the young audience.
 These fourth of July occasions were
 formerly got up by political par
 ties for promoting their respec
 tive views, and were scenes
 of disorder, which none will regret
 to see changed to useful purposes.
 5 Wednesday. M. fair, wind W;
 the day fair with many broken clouds
 Congress still continues in session, but
 nothing important on the topics.
 At night, a small shower and some
 thunder & extended clouds.

July 6 Thursday m. fair, wind NE
 the day partially cloudy & cool air
 prevails throughout, and in fact
 we have had no severe but cool
 this season.

7 Friday. m cloudy, wind NE
 the day the same with variable wind
 and air cool. I find winter clothes
 necessary to keep warm.

Cool weather }
 our show ers }
 8 We have no clouds of the cumulous form as
 in former times, and of course no
 showers of the old aspect, produ
 cing violent thunder storms: and
 most of those that occur are of the
stratus form, overspreading the sky:
 and I have not noticed a cumulus
 shower this season. These changes
 in our summer showers seem to
 be unknown to our young people

Saturday m cloudy, wind North
 the day cloudy & fair alternately.
 The Hampshire & Franklin (at Amherst) Rail
 road has been abandoned, say the papers,
 obviously a wise step, as every prudent
 man will see: and it is believed that
 many other short routes for the accommodation
 of a few trains, will follow the same fate
 Nor should we surprised if some of the
 more extended projects were to find a
 deficiency in their funds, before completion
 The truth is, the multiplication of
 charters for these roads, have been too great
 and offer little, or no probability of
 success.

Rail roads }
 9 Sunday m. cloudy, wind NW, and
 day generally cloudy & cool, rendering
 a fire in my room necessary.

10 Monday m cloudy, wind NW, most
 of the day was fair & pleasant

July
11

Tuesday M. cloudy, wind SW but soon fair, and the day continued so.

Millers
River
rail road }
A scribbler in the Boston Traveller says the Vermont and Massachu setts rail road was opened last week to Orange on Millers river 38 miles from Fitchburg, and he understands the road is newly graded to Brattleboro and will be finished this year, except the branch to Greenfield. These works he says will finish the road to Erving, and as many man to Grouts, and point 7 miles from Greenfield and 11 miles from Orange. Speaking of the projected road from Greenfield to Troy.

and
Troy
to Green
field }
he says in the future is as sure to be built either through or around the moun tain as that Deerfield River runs into Connecticut, or the Hoosac into the Hudson.

Predictions are easily made; but when they are devoid even of prob ability, they require at least a known prophet to give them credence now I will venture to predict, that a Tunnel through Hoosac mountain is no more likely to be constructed than that the Hudson should be turned from its channel and empty into the Connecticut at Greenfield. The writer hints at a passage over the mountain on a grade of 60 feet, but where he will find such a grade from the valley of Charlemont is best known to himself.

When men give loose to wild imagination nothing appears difficult; and even a syms hole, appears probable.

12
Wednesday. m cloudy, wind SW & rain able, but became clear before noon, and the day fair & warm. Late in the afternoon [] clouds appeared and covered the sun, but none of the cumus kind

July
13 Thursday M. cloudy wind S.W.
the day fair & cloudy & a shower PM
By the Caladonia, which reached N
York early Sunday morning, gloomy
intelligence is received from Paris via
Liverpool: an armed collision and
bloody struggle had occurred [] the
troops and the populous of Paris. On
the 23d of June the national Generals
were fighting desperately with the people
and the loss of life was terrific. In the
Province numerous collisions have taken
place between the authorities and the peo-
ple, attended with loss of life.

Re
marks } If the leaders of this revolution were unaware of such results, they were [] of the character of the French people, and indeed of all others in old populous countries, where the mass of the people and ignorant of the real principles of Government. And of the virtues essential for the support of republics. If this is in fact, the condition of the majority of the people of France, the attempt to establish a government founded on universal suffrage might prove abortive. That the [] would adopt a republican form of Government on the repudiation of the king. I entertained no doubts, but after a few years experienced the result was not doubtful.

14 Friday. m. cloudy, wind SW but soon became fair; PM Some rain from an insulated cloud; after which fair
15 Saturday m fair, wind N.W., the day continued clear with agreeable air

July

16

17

The
Paris
insur
rection

Sunday m. fair; cool, and
wind W. followed by a fair day.

Monday m fair, wind W
and the day fair & clear.

By the arrival of the steamship Niagara at Boston, from Liverpool July 1st, we have the details of the carnage and butchery at Paris, in 4 days fighting, between the national troops & insurgents of the city, in which 15000 men are said to have been killed & wounded, and the insurgents departed. The Executive Government has resigned, and General Cagn, is appointed military Dictator. This is the result of the late political movement in France, and exceeds the anticipation of the most fearful. Will it still be said the people of France are prepared for a free Government? Nothing but a military Chief, with an army at his back, can remain long at the head of the Government. France has been imminent in the arts sciences & literature, and it is to be presumed a portion of the people are prepared for a rational government; but it appears that a large portion of ~~the people~~ are deficient in political virtue; and when freed from restraint, run into the greatest excesses, not less ferocious than is found among savages, as is evident not only by the present, but the former revolution, where their best men were brought to the Guillotine. Every patriot [] wishes to see a rational government in France; but what can be expected from one of free suffrage where a great portion of the people are blind to their interests? The present movement seems to have been the work of theoret
ical men, who in their enthusiasm for liberty have lost sight of the condition of the people and a rigid military monarchy may be the result

July 18

Tuesday m. fair, wind W.; the day
clear & pleasant air

Re
turn
ing
troops
from
Mexi
co

The last of our army says a New Orleans paper, "left Mexico the 12th of June" and the Massachusetts Regiment arrived at that city on the 30th, reduced from 700 to 450, without having been engaged in any battle, though some have been killed in skirmishes & others deserted. The loss by sickness is less than was apprehended Will the surviving soldiers wish for another campaign in Mexico? An accurate report of the loss of men in Mexico, in battles & and by the malaria of the country, would present an apalling pretence; but this the polity of our government will force. The returned soldiers however will not be silent on the subject; and the relation of their sufferings, and of their deceased associates, will excite our commiseration; and be a useful lesson to our inconsiderate young men who know nothing of the distresses of war, particularly in a hot climate.

19

Wednesday M. fair, wind SW
and the day fair & pleasant
The late insurrection in Paris, is
is a striking proof of the unfitness
of a large portion of the people for
a free government, and it is not
to be supposed that the people of
the numerous large cities of the coun
try are much better fitted for
that purpose. The national assembly
of France may become a constitution
on republican principles, but without

July
19

a strong military force, it is feared
the constitution will not outlive
the first electoral term.

The success of the United States under a republican form, has undoubtedly misled the zealous republicans of France who seem not to have considered the condition of the people of that country. A recent writer on Government touching upon our system, says, "With an immensely large unoccupied territory and general thinness of population, it is impossible to draw any just inference as to the stability of this still comparatively raw and untried republican government. It is suitable to the present condition of their character after its population has become as dense as that of England, and great diversities of wealth and intelligence have arisen, is a question which time only can settle."

This writer evinces more knowledge of the human character, than is seen in the theoretical politicians of France who seem to have supposed their people capable of a free government, an error which it is believed, they at this time, begin to perceive. The horrid experiment in Paris, may have a use full effect on the other old countries of Europe, by shewing that a wild shout for liberty is no proof that the people are prepared for it; and it is hoped that our ultra democrats will open their eyes to the lesson.

20

Thursday m. fair, wind SW
the day fair & somewhat warm the ground is now dry; no showers have occurred of late

July
20
Iron Bridges for rail roads } Wrote my son at Vergennes enclosing a letter from Mr Gouch of Springfield, relating to iron bridges
Mr Gouch says these bridges will not much exceed the expense of wooden ones, if so they are an improvement, since they will be more durable than wooden bridges. I have always considered the latter as defective for rail-roads and when old as extremely dangerous. and before them defects can be known If it be a fact (as Mr Gouch asserts) that iron bridges can be constructed for about the same cost as timber bridges, then they ought to be generally adopted, as safer and ultimately, more economical than wooden structures.
Mr Gouch's Bridge has been favorably noticed in the papers, and he says, has met the approbation of all Engineers who have examined it. His bridge may be a valuable acquisition to rail & other roads.
Iron Bridges have been known in England for many years; the south wark bridge on the thames, and that at Sunderland are well known.

Re marks } on

21 Friday m. fair, wind S.W. and fair day & warm. Our farmers are gathering their Rye crop said to be pretty good. This crop is a sure crop in N. England and affords wholesome bread at a moderate price: for wheat we must rely on our western country, since it is [] [] crop here.

22 Saturday m some foggy, but soon clear, wind SW; day fine & stratus sets

July which gave us some rain at
 22 night, with lightning, & the day last
 but none of the old cumulus
 thunder showers occur.

23 Sunday Cloudy & rainy m.
 considerable rain last night,
 the day continued cloudy
 with N. wind and some rain

24 Monday m fair with scattering
 clouds and wind SW.; the day
 fair, & pleasant air.

25 Tuesday m partially cloudy
 wind N; clear before noon.
 PM the sky much covered by
 stratus clouds, and air moderate

26 Wednesday. m. fair, wind S.W. the
 day fair. and warm

27 Thursday m cloudy, wind
 SW; the day generally cloudy
 and pretty warm. Thr shower at eve.
 Congress still in session, arrang
 ing affairs, connected with

Con }
 gress } Mr. Polk's war, for the acquisition
 of territory The Island of Cuba
 may now prepare for the fraternal
 hug! and Jamaica next in the se
 quence. But Gen Cass in the White
 House, Canada may be the next
 object, and Cuba left to the
 process of annexation alamode
 de Texas. The plan is understood
 by ultra democracy.

July 28 Friday m. cloudy wind SW
 but soon fair, and the day fair
 and cloudy alternated fair, moderate
 Recd. a letter from my friends
 at Vergennes, dated July 26—all
 well~

29 Saturday m. fair, wind NW
 and day generally fair
 In my last letter from my con
 nections at Vergennes they mention
 a vist to the Clarrenden medical
 springs, at about 7 miles south of
 Rutland as a place of consider
 able resort, said to be beneficial
 for cutanious complaints, I was
 not aware of the existence of these
 springs. They are situated among
 the mountains, in a romantic place
 and perhaps have acquired a
 reputation from the purity of the
 water & bathing in them. Three
 or four boarding pails are poured
 at the place. Almost all countries
 have their favorite resorts at Springs
 in the hot season, and since they
 promote cleanliness & afford a
 wholesome [], they may be
 beneficial, though destitute of any
 medical properties.

Clar
rendon
medi
cal
Springs }
 Tele }
graphs }

The letter mentions a telegraphic com
 munication, made by Engineer Gilbert at
 Rutland to my son at Vergennes, requiring
 his attendance at the former; here it ap
 pears, this machine is in operation there, of
 which I was not previously informed.

July
30

Chole-
ra in
Europe}

Sunday m. fair, and
wind SW; day fair & pleasant air
By the latest accounts, we learn that
the Cholera is making progress in Europe
rope, particularly in Mosco, St. Peters-
burgh and other parts, and is progress-
ing westward. Probably it will, at
length, extend to America and again
into the St. Lawrence. The origin and
progress of this disease is singular. Shall
we say, it is a special provision of Prov-
idence, or the result of the errors of
man in the modes of living? Accord-
ing to the doctrine of Malthus, popula-
tion may become too great for subsistence
in which case he says "there must be
some counteracting agencies or checks,
in constant operation in almost all
communities, to restrain population at a
lower rate of increase, or to keep it
stationary." But no country of the
known world, it is believed, is thus situated
Even Ireland, where famine has
recently seen, probably ows its distresses
to causes, which might be avoided
by a wise course of things.
The Malthusian theory might have
applied to an overgrown popula-
tion of some of the South Sea Islands
before they were discovered by Europe-
an navigators.
When Capt. Cook first visited the Island of
Otahite the practice of putting to death
a portion of the infants, was there found:
and was not this one of the check, to
overgrown population, which Mr
Malthers' theory would embrace?
If it be had that the world is increasing
our population, it is true also that it is
increasing in subsistence for man

July

31

August

1

Mann's
speech
in Con-
gress }

on
Slave
ry }

Monday M. cloudy, with rain
wind NW. the day continued
cloudy, with cool air & some rain

Tuesday. M. fair, wind N.W. the
day fair

Horace Mann's speech in our
Congress House of Representatives
June 30th on Slavery.

Ripened in science & literature of the
modern liberal school, and consc-
ous of the [] of moral truth Mr
Mann entered upon his task, and
as we think bore down all oppo-
sition to his positions. He has
probed to the bottom, the abscess
of the body politic, which has so
long infected the slave states, and
opened an incision through which
the prescient matter may be discharged
and a cure effected, and the body
restored to health.

Among the many able speeches
I have perused of members of this
body, I must say none have been
more in unison with the strings
of my heart than this production
of Mr Mann; and it is said the
members of the slave states listened
to him with a degree of patience and
chastised forbearance, beyond anticipa-
tion, indicating a disposition to pause
and reflect, before the charms of
slavery are [] on the free
territories of Oregon and the re-
cent accessions of Northern Mex-
ico. It is ardently hoped the
lecture of Mr Mann will not
fail to open the eyes of the southern

August 1 people to their true interest, and at length give liberty to three millions of their fellow men, now groaning under misery & despair whose dearest right are not even known in the states old books, Nor [] [] allowed to petition for a redress of the grossest abuse & they may suffer from their unrelenting masters!

Mr Mann has developed the evils of slavery in its various bearings on society, and shown that science, & literature cannot extend to a great length, in a country where slavery prevails, and shows a striking contrast between those people of the slave, & those of the free states in point of intellectual arguments highly to the advancement of the latter.

In the late death of John Q. Adams a void was supposed to be produced that could not soon be filled. The loss of that sage was, indeed, great; but it reflects no small discernment on the electors of the Congressional District, that they were able to select one to fill his place, who gives fair promise of filling the void.

Mr Mann's lecture to the southern people (for this is its proper title) should be published in the pamphlet form, & in the hands of every reading man in the free states—I would say within the United States were prejudices less violent in the slave states.

August
2

Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE and day fair with moderate air. PM the wind W, and the remark able absence of cumulous thunder showers I have, noticed for years past, still continues; the fact seems to be established, but the cause not readily assigned. By the latest accounts from Europe

The Euro pean storm }
 it appears that the political storm still rages in that quarter of the world with unabated fury. After the downfall of the Roman Empire a period called the dark ages ensued, & the world remained for a time in a sort of savage condition.

Is this again to occur? Is Europe with all her arts sciences & literature & wonderful improvements, about to fall back to a dark age? But we are told by certain political enthusiasts, that liberty & the right of man, were never known in the world until they blazed forth in our country at the commencement of our revolution, and that we are now on the march to a political millennium, in which the restraints of law, old precedents and experience, are to be repudiated as worthless rubbish, and man left to the government of their wild passions

But before we boast of progress let us turn an eye to our real condition, and of what do we find that is fluttering since the patriotic days of Washington? True we have made useful improvements in the mechanical arts, but are not these the work of a few rare individuals who have deeply pondered the laws

Progress }
in arts }

of

August
2 of nature and applied them to their designs? But in the progress of mind in the mass, what have we to

of }
the mind] boast over our predecessors? And in the science of Government, is it not a fact that we are setting back to a low level through the influence and arts of designing demagogues who would invent the course of nature to carry out their own evil designs?

Europe } In Europe we see the old governments tottering on their bases, and still the people in capable of exercising free governments. In Ireland we

Ire } land] see a portion of uneasy men, determined on a revolution, and misleading the uninformed from their real interest, the cultivation of the soil, which alone can furnish subsistence, and save the people from famine: And thus, while agriculture is thus neglected, the people seem to think political reform will furnish food for their support, and cure all the evils of which they complain: and a similar diathesis prevails in some of the old countries on the continent. What will be the result of these movements time alone will determine. Of one thing, however, we are sure. viz: that where free governments exist, there must be political virtue in the people, and the evill part of society in check by salutary laws. When nations of Europe are sufficiently enlightened for free governments, we should delight to see them under the republican form.

3 Thursday m. fair, wind N. and day fair
The return of our volunteers from Mexico, is noticed in the papers. They are represented in general as looking extremely pale, haggard, and care worn, and the dress tattered & torn, may of them sick with the Diarrhea, since they arrived

Little

August
3
The
Volun
teers
return}

Little did these infatuated young men dream of the hardships they were to undergo in the tented field, when they placed their names upon their enlistments. Democratic fury supposed all caution, and they thought military service was but pleasant pastime. They return with chastined spirits, willing to remain at home. At N York the City Government thought it necessary to do something to cheer their drooped spirits, and medals were distributed to the remnant of Col Burnetts regiment doubtless to prevent too deep an impression on the young citizen soldier, who might be wanted in another war for conquest, should Gen. Cass be elected to the Presidency.

4

Friday m. cloudy but soon clear wind S. Latter part of day stratus clouds.

State
of Ire
land}

From the late accounts from Ireland it appears that a portion of the people are nearly ready for an insurrection against the Government; many arrests are made of editors of papers, for salacious publications. That the poor of the country find it difficult to obtain subsistence is no doubt true; but why are those described as people greater sufferers than the poor of England & Scotland?

Is it not in part, owing to disturbers of the peace, who partake of the democratic spirit, which will not rest under any government the same spirit we find among the ultra democrats of our own Country, who with the fullest liberty are constantly uneasy? And aim at radical changes.

August
4

As in all old countries of limited extent, Ireland has an large overgrown population and of course many poor who have no means of procuring subsistence, but by their labor. But is this the fault of government? The great complaint of the Irish at this time the Union with England, as if this was the cause of ~~the~~ cause of their suffering. Now to me it appears, that this Union is essential to the welfare of both, and that a separation would be most unfortunate. So long as England, Scotland & Ireland are united they form a strong nation, capable of defence against any other. Separate them and they become weak and liable to conquest by any great military nation on the Continent. But it is said England is hostile to the welfare of Ireland. Is this true? If so, it is difficult to account for the anomaly. Rather is not the difficulty caused by a few uneasy men. who act from selfish views, or and [] to any regular government? Let the people turn their attention to agricultural, industry and the arts, and it is believed they would find less want of subsistence and [] increase their happiness. Still there will be many poor among them, and this is unavoidable in old nations where land is scarce and dear. In the United States extreme poverty is little known; and is not this owing to the vast tracts of wild land in our western regions, which can be obtained at a low price? In Ireland there is poverty and misery [] but it is a question whether they are not in part, owing to the [] effect of evil men hostile to all salutary advancement

August 5 Saturday m. fair, wind SW
and the day fair, but sometimes
covered by stratus clouds.

News of the week }

The accounts from Europe during
the last week, present a threatening
aspect; in Paris efforts have been
made to renew the insurrection and
several horrid plans have been discovered
and defeated, and order is maintained
only by military force. Did the pro
moters of the revolution foresee this
state of things, and do they now
believe the people are prepared
for a republic? The national Con
vention by this time, was held, []
[] that liberty consists not in
wild shouts of the multitude

6 Sunday m. fair, wind NW,
mild air and day fair.

7 Monday m. fair, wind NE
and fair day fine
We hear that the 1st Vol of the An
cient Monuments of the Missis
sippi Valley, by Messrs. E.G. Squires
and E.H. Davis, is passing through
the press, and will be published this
month. It will be the first Vol. of
the "Smithsonian Contributions to
Knowledge". We have been very
desirous of perusing this work, un
der the impression that it will
prove beyond a doubt that Ameri
ca long prior to its discovery by Eu
ropeans, was inhabited in by a race
~~of men~~ far advanced in Arts,
beyond the Indians since known
in our Western country. Perhaps how
ever similar to the Mexicans, prior
to their conquest by Cortez, and think
they were known to the Asiatics is
probable.

The work on the monuments of the western Country forth coming }

August
7 But in vain we attempt to trace the history of the primitive nations of the old world, prior to the palmy times of Greece & Rome; and can the Jewish history, which claims to be the most ancient, evidently embraces much of the fabulous: now another claims of the Chinese to many millions of years of existence, worthy of consideration, for any nation claiming records or traditions, so remote[te] must rely on fiction.

8 Tuesday m fair, wind SW
and day fair and warm
Took supper with the Trustees
of Deerfield Academy. at Hayes Homes
tead—a pleasant company, and
had a debate on Rail-roads, in
which I endeavored to show that by
multiply them on parallel or river pocket or [—]
routes their objects are de
feated and at length become
unpredictable investments and
fail of support; that short
routes for the accommodation of
a few towns in the interior of the
country, cannot find support.
and that one great artery from
Boston to Albany & another from
Boston via Fitchburg to Lake Cham
plain, are sufficient for the busi
ness of the state in a western di
rection. My positions were opposed
by several gentlemen who I thought
had let their zeal outstrip their
judgment and had wandered in
the land of utopia, without

A soci
al
meet
ing

Debate
on rail
roads

August
8

star, compass, or experience for their guide. My antagonists however seemed little inclined to the task of delving 4 or 5 miles through Hoos ac mountain for a road from Green field to Troy, and by what means they would pass the mountain did not appear.

9

Wednesday. m. fair, wind SW
the day fair but sky hazy.
an pretty hot air.

our
village
notice
of by
travel
ers

Travelers passing us on our [] rail road on the east side of the village, I am informed, speak in very flattering terms of the appearance, of our street ~~end~~ especially of its fertile meadows on its borders. One Gentleman who had been in England, France and some other parts of Europe, remarked that he had no where seen so [] a country as

that from Northampton, northerly along the road way. Our village it is true appears to great advantage from the rail road, but it can boast of

no great style of elegance in its buildings, and perhaps its plainness constitutes its beauty; but its adjacent meadows cannot fail to strike the eye of taste, with admiration: And I think I may say that no part of the United States presents so handsome a chain of villages, as the banks of the Connecticut from Middletown to the upper part of Vermont, and none where the people possess more unadulterated republicanism and regular habits. Of this, one of our poets seems to have been sensible, when he sung the following distich.

“Roll on loved Connecticut, long hast thou ran,
Giving blossoms to Nature, and morals to man.”¹⁶

And no river of equal extent in the United States affords water of greater purity.

Re
marks
on

The
Valley
of the
Connec
ticut

¹⁶ Robert Treat Paine, *Yeoman of Hampshire*.

August 10 Thursday m. fair, wind SW
 day clear and hot. but no appearances of thunder showers.
 as was common in former times
A [] midday event.

Sudden death of Roland Stebbins on the Rail road }
 Par ticulars }
 A Cau tion }

A few minutes before 4 o'clock PM Mr Roland Stebbins, the Dumb and Deaf man of our village, was killed on the rail road near Cheapside in this town. He had been at Greenfield to attend a Circus show, and returning home of feet, alone, along the road, met the train and was instantly killed. He had been noticed by the engineer at a short distance, and the whistle & bell sounded to notify him of his danger, which his deafness prevented his hearing, and before the train could be stopped, was struck by the engine, thrown from the road and instantly expired. He was a son of the late Col. Asa Stebbins of this town, had been educated at the Hartford deaf & dumb school & was able to read, write & perform common business. and to take care of himself. as was supposed. No deaf man should [] [] himself upon a rail road. [] accidents of this kind are more frequent than we had anticipated.

11 Friday m. fair, wind SW day fair and hot.
 mailed a letter to son Arthur containing an account of the death of Roland Stebbins of our village

August
11
Keene }
rail
road
&c. } My hosekeeper Mr Osgood and wife returned from a visit to their friends in Sullivan New Hampshire having been absent nearly 7 days: he say the rail road trains run twice a day from Keene to Fitchburg and they expect to complete the road from Keene to Bellows falls by the commencement of winter or early next summer, when a junction will be found with the Rutland and Burlington rail-road, and be continuous to Boston from Lake Champlain The central road from the Connecticut by Montpelier to Burlington presents a rival route, and [] [] car [] determined the preference.

12 Saturday. M. cloudy, wind SW but sun out by 9 AM, and day generally fair some cloud PM My relative, David S. Hoyt sends me the annexed observations on the weather as inserted in the Pittsburgh Daily Morning Post, of August 5th 1848, made on his route from the Mexican Capital to Pittsburgh. Mr Hoyt I am informed has obtained his discharge & is now residing in Pittsburgh. He had previously sent me, metrological observations for the month of October 1847, made at the City of Mexico communicated in a letter postmarked December 30th of that year (See page 12th) His journal of Scott's operations in Mexico may be interesting to military men, and his visit to the volcano of Popocatcpetl to all. He shared in the siege of Vera Cruz; and in some of the battles at Mexico [] on []

Communication from D.S. Hoyt }
Mete orolog ical }

August He is now, I am informed
12 employed in the United States arsen-
 al at Pittsburgh, at one dollar
 per day, the business of which he
 has become acquainted with by practical
 experience in the army.

13 Sunday. m partially cloudy,
 wind S.W., and the day fair
 and hot. Since the commencement
 of the month we have had pretty hot
 summer weather, free from showers
 and electricity seems to be in a
 state of repose. Mr. Mores gave a
 discourse on the death of the unfortu-
 nate Roland Stebbins—a subject affect-
 ing many useful reflections. From
 this incident we see the danger to
 which the dumb & deaf are exposed
 when alone~

14 Monday. M. cloudy, wind
 S.W. but soon fair, and so
 continued & wind brisk
 The Amherst Express of 14th
 instant, give the following from
 the United States Intelligencer:
 "The arrangements are nearly com-
 pleted for the contemplated new Repub-
 lic, to consist of the Mexican Provinces
 on the Rio-Grand, with San-Louis as
 the capitol, and Tampico & Matamoras as
 the sea ports. General Shields is at the
 head of the movement, and is now proba-
 bly at San Louis in general command
 to make final arrangements. Many have
 already gone from N. Orleans to meet
 him; the American force will not be less
 5,000 men"—Cuba it is supposed is to
 included in the grasp. This is but the
 2d part of Mr Polks drama of annexa-
 tion. We had not looked for it []

Annex
ation
again
plan
of

August
14

Its ex }
tent }

Let Gen. Cass obtain possession of the White House and the plan will be carried out with vigor; and the next grasp will probably be the British provinces on the north and northeast with the Islands of Bermuda & Jamaica. His plan of conquest is not news it was developed in the administration of President Monroe, and has since been kept in view by our ultra democrats. The name of the new republic, it is said, is to be Sierra Madre and to be annexed to the U. States as soon as circumstances will permit.

A Buf
falo
hunt
propos
ed }
on the
Rio-
Grand }

To carry out the plan some [] scheme must be adopted for providing a middling force from the people of the U. States. And here we have it. In recent New Orleans papers an advertisement is inserted of the following [—]
"Buffalo Hunt on the Rio Grand"
 All those desirous of joining the Buffalo hunt upon the Rio Grand next fall, are requested to send in their names and addresses to the Grand [] of the O.O.O. on or before the first day of September next. They will state the number of persons in each party, their equipments &c Rifles, muskets, or revolvers must be furnished by each hunter. As the party may expect occasional attacks from the hostile Indians roaming in that section of Country, it is recommended that each party should be organized and

August 14

Organised & drilled hunts men }

and drilled before meeting at the rendezvous. It is expected that many friendly Mexicans, skillful in the sport and acquainted with the habits and haunts of the animal, will join in the party. Due notice of the time of meeting and the rendezvous will be given through the public press." This notice, says the Amherst Express, is copied into the editorial comments of the Boston Post, without comments. No one will doubt the skill and zeal of that editor in Buffalo hunting on the Rio Grand, but we hardly think he will risk himself in the sport.

15 Tuesday. M. fair, wind S.W.
the day fair and hot, and []
ly a cloud to be seen at night.
an temperature is now about a high
as that of the torrid zone.

16 as that of the torrid zone.
Wednesday. M. foggy but soon clear, wind SW; the day continued fair & hot, a little rain at night

Nom
ination
of Van
Buren
for
Presi
dent }
convention last week at Buffalo
nominated Martin Van Buren for
the Presidency. This step we think
will insure the election of Mr. Cass
which every patriot of the U States
would wish to avoid. We fear
our Whig friend of the Convention
have, in this step, lost their desira
tion and fallen into a democratic
trap baited for them~

The case now stands thus: Northern democracy will be content with the election of either Van Buren or Cass; but the Taylor ticket is in the way; if then such a division of the people can be created, as to permit a popular a choice, no fears are entertained of [] in Congress by state votes.

August 17 Thursday M. fair, wind SW
 occasionally pretty brisk & variable
 the day still hot, and continued
 so and generally very clear, at
 about sun set clouds in the NW
 indicated a thunder shower & some rain
 fell in the night, attended with
 a slight degree of thunder; but
 the remarkable absence of this
 phenomenon still continues.

18 Friday m. cloudy wind
 NE and rain soon commenced
 and continued some time and the
 day was generally cloudy.

19 Saturday M. loosely cloudy
 wind N. with cooler air
 PM fair—we hear of a very de-
 structive fire at the City of Albany, A
 vast loss of property, details
 not received.

20 Sunday. M. fair, wind NE;
 day fair, air moderate and
 at night scattering clouds

21 Monday. m fair, wind NE;
 day fair & air moderate, as it has
 been since Thursday night.

22 Tuesday M. fair wind NE
 the day fair & pleasant.

The }
 Albany }
 fire }
 The fire in Albany last ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday is stated
 in the papers to have been very destructive
 amounting to two millions of Dollars, or
 more. Within 4 hours, 500 buildings were
 lain in ashes, together with numerous
 water craft in the dock & a large quantity of flour
 The flames were finally stopped by a []
 of wind & heavy rain. This timely rain

August 22 was probably the [] of the fire, if we may rely on Mr Espy's theory of showers as laid down in his philosophy of storms—a work which commands the attention of the naturalist.

23 Wednesday M. partially cloudy, but soon fair, with W. wind. day fair with s[c]attering clouds. PM wind NE

Congress closed its session in the (evening) of Thursday of the 14 instant, after a protracted sitting, during which the democratic spirit has been displayed, especially in the Senate and in some instances that body instead of being a check upon the House has evinced a policy which the latter has wisely corrected. But we are compelled to say, that in both, a subserviency to Mr Polk's plans has been evinced that forebodes ill to our country. The unconstitutional strides of the President in the invasion of Mexico should have been nipped in the bud, and he called to account for his strikes. But the session has afforded opportunities to the friends of the of the country to show their patriotism which discerning people will not forget in future elections.

24 Thursday m. fair, wind, N.E., and a very clear and pleasant day.

25 Friday. m. fair, wind N.W. and day fair but sometimes hazy Took a trip to Bloody Brook with Mr Josiah Fogg, who seems to be gratified in conferring acts of kindness on his friends;--noticed several new buildings erecting on various roads & streets. In the

Close
of the
Session
of Con
gress

Trip
to Bloody
Brook

August 25 southerly part of this town extensive tracts of plain lands are seen which by improved cultivation would admit of a considerable increase of population. The great object is an increase of manures; and the draining of some of the wet lands in the south west part, in the vicinity of mill river.

Manu re, want ing } Whate ly Lime stone in the vicin ity }

Professor Hitchcock notices a hill of Limestone near the north line of Whately, near mill river, which he thinks should it come into use would afford a useful manure for lands, and would supply the whole valley of the Connecticut for centuries. This limestone he says is quite impure, but will answer for mortar: 100 parts he found to contain carbonate of lime 78; the residuum (chiefly sand) 22 parts. See his 1st Geological Report (1833) pages 25 & 26. In page 10, of the same work, he expresses his opinion that one of the greatest deficiencies in the soil of the principal part of Massachusetts, is the absence of lime.

Analy sis of }

If such a source of manure exists in the vicinity of these lands, why is it not resorted to? The truth is our farmers know little of the importance of lime as a manure and in this they are far below the farmers of England. That almost all soils may be rendered fertile by renewing and proper cultivation, is a fact; but in some cases the expense may be too great for the profit.

Re marks }

26 Saturday. M fair, wind N.E.; the day fair, but scattering clouds seen.

27 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW and clear day with pleasant air, PM wind SW.

August Monday M. cloudy; wind SW
 28 and cloudy with rain & cool air
 29 Tuesday. M fair, wind SW
 and the day very clear.
 Paid to J & C Adams publishers
 of the H & F Express from Vol 2 N 7
 to Vol. 4 n 35=2 years & 6 months 3.75
 on my sons subscription. (See Rect.)
 By recent accounts from Ireland it
 appears that the sported measure taken
 by the British Government to to pre-
 vent an outbreak among that
 restless people is likely to prove effect-
 ual—Most of the leaders have been
 arrested, and no formidable bodies
 are collected to oppose the laws.
 The British Army now in Ireland is
 said to number 49,000 and the intentions
 of the Government is to earn all the well
 affected portion of the inhabitants.
 Ire }
 land }

 Its That a portion of the people of Ire-
 restless } land, like those of all old limited
 condi countries, are suffering from their
 tion poverty is admitted, but that they
 would better their condition by
 a separation from Great Britain
 is extremely doubtful. If the popu-
 lation of the island has become too great
 for subsistence, the only remedy seems
 to be in emigration to countries, where
 land is plenty and at a low price,
 and to this the British Government of-
 fer no impediment, and her provin-
 ces in America offer openings for a vast
 number of inhabitants, as also the U. States
 our sympathy for the poor of all nation
 is alive, but we are far from believing
 that their distresses, in all cases, are the
 result of oppression, of their governments.
 An equality of property is impossible while
 men are not equally industrious & prudent.

August 30 Wednesday m. fair wind SW and day very clear & fine air.

Letter from my frie[n]ds } A Letter from my connections at Vergennes, last evening. The railroad progressing with good speed and 18 miles of the lower part expected (towards Bellows falls) to be completed before winter. The large bridge at New-Haven is in construction: and the year may complete the whole road.

31 Thursday. M. fair, wind N; day fair & warm. Met a social party at Col. Wilsons, whence I walked home the first time I have tried my legs this summer. With the present warmth of feeling on approaching Presidential Election it was difficult to avoid discussion on that subject, and I was surprised to see with what unconcern, our men of sense were falling into the snare set for them, by democracy. The Buffalo Convention was applauded by some of the Gentlemen, and Martin Van Buren held up as a patriot!

Septem
ber 1 } While the purity of Daniel Webster was considered as doubtful. With such a vacillating diathesis, who can perceive any thing but, confusion in the policy of the United States.

1848 Friday. M. fair, but many broken clouds, & wind S.W.; day fair generally.

2 Saturday M. fair, wind W. and day fair and cool air.

Political address } In the evening the Revd. Joshua Leavett delivered an address in the town hall in and of the election, of Martin Van Buren to the Presidency. Mr Leavett is

Septr
2
At our
town
hall }

an orthodox clergyman, and
one of the leaders of the "Free Soil"
party, a name recently substi-
tuted for that of the Liberty party
Whether the gentleman believes that
the Whigs of the Northern States
are to be suddenly converted to
his utopian doctrines, and
Mr. Van Buren held as a con-
verted patriot we cannot say.

Re
marks }
on

But with ordinary foresight, he
cannot fail to see that his doc-
trines, if adopted, will insure the
election of Gen. Cass to the Presidency.
And in such an event, does he hon-
estly believe the extension of slavery
would receive a check? The same
political blindness operated in the
election of Mr. Polk, and produced the
war with Mexico, for the sole pur-
pose of conquest of adjoining territory.
To Mr Leavetts opposition to slavery, we
have no objection, but we regret
to find him running into the gross
error of claiming to himself & his par-
ty, the only the only real opposers
to that abominable institution and
at the same time ready to embrace
Mr Van Buren as a reformed patriot
If he prefers Gen. Cass to Gen. Taylor we think
he is ignorant of their political cha-
racters, and has forgotten the funda-
mental principles of the Whigs, which
alone can save our Country from
injustice & anarchy. Of the election of Mr Van
Buren he can entertain no well grounded
hopes, but must see that by pre-
venting a choice by the people, Cass
is sure of an election in Congress.

Septr
2 The latin query (Quae cum props ad
crimen, sine crimine) A notice "How never
may a man approach to guilt, without being
guilty? should not escape this [—]
 reflections of the party.

The Van Bu
ren nomi
no risk to demo
cracy } In the nomination of Van Buren by
 the Buffalo Convention, democracy
 risked nothing; for in him a
 Gen. Cass, they will find the man
 they desire. But that Whigs of
 discerning minds should have been
 caught in the ~~eovered~~ secretive trap, is an
 anomaly of a singular character
 We trust however, that northern
 Whigs of sound principles, will
 not be misled by heated zeal
 which looks not to consequences.

3 Sunday. m. fair, wind N. the
 day fair, but many scattering clouds
 overspread the sky. occasionally.

4 Monday. M. fair, wind W.
 and the day generally fair, but
 but clouds overspread the sky
 towards the close.

Rail road acci dent } Fatal accidents are frequently
 occurring on our Rail Roads. Last
 Wednesday Mr Eldridge Phillips
 & his wife were killed on the
 Road about half a mile east
 the Palmer, depot in attempting to
 pass the usual crossing, as the train
 was approaching. The carriage was
 dashed to pieces & he & wife instantly
 killed. The passage of roads over
 rail ways, will always necessarily
 be attended with danger; and
 perhaps no precautions will in
 sure safety. These accidents with
 many others on Rail roads, are a
 serious objection to this mode of trans
 portation; and a velocity of 20 miles
 per hour will alway be liable
 to fatal disasters.

Re marks }

Septr

5

The
“free
soil”
party}

Its ea
sy mode
of con
version}

and
ready
recep
tion
of con
verts}

Tuesday m. fair, wind SW.
And the day fair & cloudy by turns.
the [—] weather pretty warm.

In listening to the conversation, and perusing the writings of the men who claim to be of the now named the Free Soil party, we cannot but notice their total indifference & apathy to the plans and designs of the democratic party, which have hitherto kept the people of the United States in a constant turmoil. Indeed they now go so far as to say, there is no bone of contention between the two great [] parties, at this time, other than slavery

ery: hence we see the most violent democrat restored to their good graces, if he only expresses a single sentiment against slavery; and had Mr Polk performed a timely summerset like that of Mr Van Buren, he would at once, have been deemed a patriot of the first order, notwithstanding his tergiversations and other political sins of his administration. And, with his consent, he might have been the candidate of the Buffalo convention. We like to see a forgiving spirit in the community, but when an old offender claims to have repented of his error, we think time should be afforded for testing his sincerity. Mr Van Buren may be a true convert, but unfortunately for him & his party, nothing appears from his pen to justify his sincerity, but his opposition to the extension of slavery into Mr Polks forcible acquisition of Mexican territory which the free soil party,

seem to consider as a very harmless stride provided slavery be excluded from the robbed territory. When a party became thus blinded to the vital instincts of the republic, perhaps it is best to leave them to their to feel the result of their intemperate zeal, and to correct their errors by experience As regards slavery we yield to none, in our opposition to that horrid institution; but

Septr
5 we cannot close our eyes to other existing evils that threaten our republic with ruin, and call for the utmost exertions of every patriot in removing from our lands. The pretension that slavery is the only bone of contention between the two great parties, is perposterous in the extreme, and evinces a blindness which ought not to prevail among men of intelligence. That there are in the Free Soil party, honest men, we admit; but when they go so far as to believe Mr Van Buren a patriot, we are compelled to say their good sense has been lost in their indiscretion.

Its ready Amalgamation with democracy }
6 Wednesday. M fair but many broken clouds, and wind N.E. day fair & air moderate~

7 Thursday. M. fair, wind N.E. followed by a clear day & cool air We learn that the grading of the rail road from Grouts through Montague & the Heart of this town, to Greenfield is commenced. When this is complete it will draw off transportation to Boston from the Springfield route and reduce its value.

Rail roads from Grouts to Green field }
8 Friday. M fair, wind SW and fair day, with moderate air Rev. Eleazer Williams of Green Bay a descendant of Miss Eunice Williams who with her father Rev. John Williams and his family were taken captives by the French and Indians at this place, in 1704 is here. Last evening he delivered a discourse to our people, on the life and character of Mr. Williams, his great Great Grandfather, in which he gives some facts relating to his services as Chaplain in the Expedition against Canada in the year 1709-'10 & '11 This evening he

Revd. Eleazer Williams from Green Bay }
Visit of }

Septr
8

Histo
rical
address
of

is to deliver another address embracing some particulars of the attack on Deer field, with a letter or letters from Rouville & other officers of the Expedition containing some details of the march & action in our North meadow. Mr Williams says that on the approaching our village, within 5 or 6 miles Rouville divided his force and advanced in two columns, but that they united, before the attack was made on the village. This junction was probably made on the flat mouth of Shel don's brook, when they deposited their baggage, & subsequently assembled their prisoners, after the battle in the meadow. on their return to Canada, Mr Williams says part of Rouville's force ascended the valley of Black river, and past mount Holly to Otter creek, and thence to the lake, and that his Great grandmother Eunice Williams, accompanied this party. Every circumstance of this expedition is interesting to me.

9

Saturday m. fair, wind N.; the day fair & cloudy alternately At sun set clear sky.

At an assembly of people [—] at Marshfield in this State Daniel Webster delivered a speech, in which he came out decidedly in favor of the election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency. We now have our two Congressional Senators in favor of the true policy Will the people of Massachusetts dis trust their honor & discernment and believe Mr Van Buren a patriot? Impossible!

10

Sunday M. fair, wind N.E.
and the day clear with fine air.

11

Monday M. fair, wind SW and day fair with warm air.
The ground is now dry, no showers having occurred of late and I think I may say, we have had no old fashioned thunder storms this season.

Mr. Web
ster in
support
of Tay
lor

Septr 12 Tuesday m cloudy, wind NE;
 last evening a small shower with light
 ning, PM fair & cool air indicat
 ing a frost

13 Wednesday m. fair, wind NE
 some frost last night, and a to
 tal eclipse of the moon, about midnight,
 the day very clear, but the air
 begins to partake of the fall temper
 ature. The Whig Convention of
 Massachusetts, assembles, this day.
 Meeting of the Mass Convention of Whigs }
 at Worcester for the nomination of Governor, Lt. Governor, and an Electoral ticket for President; and we trust the nomination of Mr. Van Buren by the Buffalo Convention, will rouse every Whig patriot to a sense of duty at the approaching election & in opposing the further progress of political corruptions. which for more than twenty years past, has sank the Government of the U.S. to a low level in the profile of nations.

Mr Van Buren nomi nation at Buf falo }
 His nomination of Mr Van Buren, Though perfectly consistent on the part of democracy, evinces a dereliction of principle in the Whigs who participated in it not looked for by the honest part of Community.
 For a history of the U States Government in relation to Slavery, we could call the attention of honest inquirers to the View of William Jay on the Federal Government in behalf of slavery, in a small Vol. printed at N. York 1839 particularly from page 63 to page 177 Yet Mr Van Buren with many of these [] [] under his eye, could give his casting vote in the Senate of the U States of which he was President, to a bill for for a censorship over the press & post office of the greatest turpitude [—] (See page 169) and prior to his election to the Presidency, his pledge to maintain slavery in the District of Columbia was [—] as follows "I must go

Septr
13
 Pledge
to his
south
ern
breth
ren } into the presidential chair the in
flexible and uncompromising oppo
nent to any attempts on the part
of Congress to abolish slavery in the
District of Columbia against the wishes
of the Slaveholding states” (See page 22)
 When an old offender claims to have
 repented of his crimes, we require
 something more than his declaration
 to convince us of the fact. Mr Van
 Buren's adherence to the principles
 of his southern brethren, has been
 too palpable to be obliterated by
a dash of his pen

14 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE
 and cool air, rendering a fire ne
 cessary in my room; the day con
 tinued cloudy & rain commenced in
 the afternoon. As the sun is now
 but about 3 degrees north of the equator
 probably the warm season has past, dur
 ing which the infrequency of infrequent
 cy of thunder storms is as remarkable
 as I have noticed for several past years
 That the laws of electricity have changed
 is not be supposed; but from some []
 readily explained, the equilibrium of the
 prevailing fluid is less distributed It has
 been suggested that our long iron shaped
 rail roads might have an effect on thun
 der showers; but since lightning generally
 occurs in the atmosphere, between clouds
 differently charged, the suggestion is not
 admissible.

15 Friday m. fair, wind SW. Last night
 a small shower with thunder. the
 somewhat cloudy.
 Our connection David S. Hoyt arrived
 home this morning. His recollect
 tion of all the movements of Gen
 Scott in Mexico seems to be clear, and
 he details them with much facility and
 apparent accuracy.

The
Weath
er } D.S.
Hoyt's
arriv
al }

Septr Saturday m. fair, wind N.E.
 16 and the day partially cloudy and
 cool air
 17 Sunday m. fair, wind S.W, but
 the generally cloudy.
 18 Monday. M. cloudy, rain last
 night, and wind S.W. PM fair
 19 Tuesday. m fair wind SW
 and fair day with pleasant air
 mailed a letter to my friends at
Vergennes
 20 Wednesday m. cloudy with some
 rain; wind SW
 This day a militia review at Greenfield
 in compliance of a Law of the Common
 wealth. These parades are very attractive
 to our young people, who generally attend
 them in great numbers who are []
 ed with show. How far these parades
 are conducive to military discipline is, as a
 question of some importance. In gener
 al they exhibit very little of the routine
 of the tented field, and import no useful
 lessons, other than the keeping up a
military spirit which facilitates re
 cruiting when an army is to be raised,
 as was the case at the commencement
 of the Mexican war, when our volun
 teers eagerly sought diversion in the
 "halls of Montezuma" totally unaware
 of the dangers & hardship they were
 encounter under vertical rays of the sun.
 But blind and unreflecting as is their
 military spirit in the young, it may be
 wise policy in government to foster it,
 since wars will continue to be the
 lot of nations, and none can exist with
 out a military force sufficient to enforce
 the laws and defend it where assaulted by
 rapacity. Not even a quaker community
 would exist without some protection of this kind
 for their non resistance affords but a false
 guaranty against piracy & robbery.

Militia Review at Green field }
 Re marks on their util ty }

Septr
21 Thursday m. fair with broken clouds, and wind N; the day continued fair & warm.

Posi
tion
of France } By the latest accounts from Europe it appears that serious apprehensions are entertained of another outbreak in France. It is said The cause of Royalty is gaining ground. in many departments. What will be the result of the present movement in that perturbed nation, is uncertain. If the higher class of the people are prepared for a free government, it is certain the lower one not ready for the change. Should the military government , a reign of terror might insure. perhaps as bloody as that of Robespierre in the former revolution

Not
[]
ing } The doctrine that all men are born free, and are entitled to protection of their rights & property, is undoubtedly a sound and fundamental principle. But it does not hence follow that all are fitted for rulers. In all governments that have existed, even in aristocracy, or an oligarchy which has governed the mass of the people, and when this mass has obtained the political ascendency & repudiates the men who have been eminent in places of trust, the nation is evidently verging to anarchy; and this it is feared is the present condition of France.

The present national assembly may form a constitution for the people, yet it is extremely doubtful whether it will be accepted by a majority. But should a constitution, embracing universal suffrage, be adopted, would it long be sustained, while artful demagogues may deceive the people by their sophistry? However wise the constitution may be, it is feared that the French people will never rest [] in repose, without a strong coercive military force.

22 Friday m cloudy, wind NE but so fair and the day continued so. The sun now near the equinox and the days and nights of equal length.

Septr
23 Saturday m. fair, wind W, and
the day fair with scattering clouds
& brisk wind.

Brad
dock's
battle
ground
1755 } Our Mexican solider, David S. Hoyt
informs me that during a stay at Pittsburgh
he visited Braddock's battle ground on
the north bank of the Monongahela
about miles easterly of that town
The ground is now cleared of woods
& under cultivation, and the inhabitants often find bullets & cannon shot
and point out some of the incidents
of the battle, but probably with no
great accuracy. See n 11, page 78
of my sketches for an account of this
battle, with remarks; officers killed 26, wounded 37
(26 & 37)

24 Sunday m. cloudy and wind W. the
day fair in general.

25 Monday M. cloudy, wind SW
and the day generally cloudy.
Address of the late Whig Convention at Worcester, to the electors of Massachusetts. This is an able production, well calculated to open the eyes of the people to their danger. Taking it for granted that Gen. Taylor or Gen Cass will be the next President it seems the political character of the two in a very satisfactory manner, and develops the schemes and designs of Democracy in a clear point of view. The nomination of Mr Van Buren to the Presidency, by the Buffalo convention is considered as a singular anomaly evincing a political blindness which ought not to be found among informed people. This nomination though offering no chance of success may prevent a choice by the people, & thence the election into House of Representatives in which case who can doubt the success of Gen Cass and a continuation of the present ruinous system of administration? This step of the "free soil" party so called, appears to me, like insanity

[]

Septr
 25
 The
 free
 soil
 party }
 But granting to this party
 sane minds, and honest principles
 we are compeled to say they have
 lost sight of the designs of democracy
 and the conservation principles, which
 have hitherto saved our country from
 anarchy into which the election of
 Gen. Cass would plunge us, by continuing
 the present [] system of policy. If the party
 is about to [] with Ultra democracy
 it is hoped they will throw off all
 disguise, raise their standard and
 show the patriots of the country, the new
 enemy they have to oppose. Their nom
 ination of Mr. Van Buren and opposition to
 the reduction of Gov. Briggs, in this Com
 monwealth, leaves little doubt as to their
 designs. Hitherto we have supposed
 this party to have acted from honest
 principles, but in its present attitude
 it would be criminal to withhold
 an expression of its destructive
 course. with Martin Van Buren
 at the head! We shall probably next
 hear of an organized opposition to the re
 election of the present members of Congress of
 our state. The Latin proverb, "When
God dooms to destruction, he first make
mad", is here strikingly verified: for no
 stranger proof of madness could be
 [] {—} then, this nomina
 tion, degrading, immoral, & corrupting
 and if we are not mistaken, will prove
 suicidal to the party who made it.
 The address of the Convention examines
 the whole ground most ably, and leaves
 little or nothing, to satisfy the candid
 mind, of the merits of the contest in
 the approaching election.
 26 Tuesday. m. fair, wind SW, and
 the day fair & pleasant.
 Of the prospect of a rail road from
 Greenfield through Hoosak moun to Troy we
 hear little, even from its advo
 cates. We have from the first, considered the
 scheme futile, and as offering not even the most distant
 probability of success. The idea of a tunnel
 through

Septr 26 through Hoosac mountain for a rail road is one of the wildest that ever entered the mind of a sane man. But even if practicable, what capitalist would invest his money in such a project, when a rail road is already constructed from Boston to Albany, and amply sufficient for all the trade of the west, to the former place. The projectors of the scheme may continue to concern themselves and the people residing on the proposed route, but the plan, already exhibiting but faint signs of life, will, we think, die in its fancy; and teach the lesson that ardent zeal in a project is no substitute for countless millions of money.

Troy Rail Road & its prospects } 27 Wednesday m. fair, wind N; day fair until towards sun set.

28 Thursday. M. partially cloudy, wind SW; the day, or PM fair. The air now begins to be cold rendering a constant fire necessary and I find it difficult to procure fuel by purchase, since our farmers are unwilling to dispose of it at a reasonable price, the rail road having increased the demand. In New England where no good coal mines are found it becomes a question, how future generations are to obtain fuel? Timber will at length be exhausted, and coal from a distance will be expensive.

Fuel little for sale } In this town we have a considerable surface of wood land, but I think any further clearing would be [] And would it not be good economy to plant our old pasture lands with maples and other trees of rapid growth? The transplanted maples in our street presents a specimen of this process.

Econo my of } 29 Friday. m. cloudy, wind NW and some rain; the day continued cloudy with some rain wind SW For a week past my friends have made [—] calls, and I have

[]

Septr
29

Want
of calls
from
friends

been unable to keep pari passu with the transactions of the day. Am I becoming uninteresting, or too garrulous for entertainment? Our papers present [] [] essays, and show a considerable spirit in regard to the nominations made by the different parties. Witness as I have been to the rise of these parties & the arts of demagogues since the days of President Washington cannot but regret that a spirit of patriotism has sunk to so low a level in the United States is seen at this day. We now see men, & many men of the most exalted talents repudiated as enemies to our country, and obscure individuals of doubtful character, held up for plans of the highest t in the Government of the United States, and honor, morality and justice out of the question One of our parties (the free soil) has had the audacity to nominate Mar tin Van Buren for the Presidency. Alas my Country! how fallen since the [] days of Washington when honest men were esteemed, and eminent talents were no bar to promotion.

PM received a letter from my friends at Vergennes—all well—and promise me a visit about the middle of October The rail road in successful progress.

30

Saturday M. cloudy, wind SW. the day became fair, with pleasant air, and so continued This day I purchased 2 cords of slab wood at Stebbins mill at 2 dollars per cord, besides carting. The demand for fuel, renders this resort necessary —one of the benefits of our rail road! Viz. doubling the cost of some of our necessaries the only effect I have felt from it.

Septr 30 In further conversation with Mr. David S. Hoyt, on Braddocks battle ground he corrects the topography of Mr. Spark's plan, by redrawing the distance from the ford of the Monongahela to the place where Gage's van was attacked, to about 50 rods, instead of half a mile. Further north the country he says, rises to high impassable hills; and the low grounds bordering [] river was covered with thick set woods at the time of the ambuscade~ If the distance from the ford to the river ground, is correctly estimated by Mr Hoyt, Braddock's main force had hardly commenced its march from that point when Gage's van was attacked; and whether the Commander formed his troops in a line on the height, is doubtful. The provincial corps came into action and maintained their position. some time from behind trees and other cover on the ground. The great error was in not discovering the enemy before the firing commenced, which might have been done by small flanking parties. The ground is now generally cleared and cultivated, and the inhabitants pick up many relics of the battle. The loss on the part of the English was severe 26 officers killed & 37 wounded and 704 rank & file killed & wounded at least one half of the force. The enemy is estimated at 250 French and 640 Indians and their loss at 3 officers killed, & 4 wounded and 30 rank & file killed, and wounded, about the same number. The remnant of Braddocks troops retreated to Dunbars camp, carrying off the wounded with the general, and the attack on fort Du Quesne was suspended til 1758

Fur
ther
notice
of Brad
dock's
battle
ground }
 Re
marks }
 Loss
on each
side }

October Sunday m. cloudy and
1 wind N.; the day cloudy with
1848 some rain.
2 Monday M. cloudy & rain, wind
 N.E.; day cloudy & wet.
 Some of our street maples begin to exhibit
 their fall hue, though the frosts have
 not been very severe.
3 Tuesday m. cloudy & wet, wind N.E.
 and the day raining with cold air.
 By European accounts it appears
 that the Cholera is moving westward
 from the eastern borders of Europe in
 the precise way as in 1832. Probably
 the fatal disease will extend through Eu
 rope and thence to America, when
 the people, both there & here, will find
 something more serious to contend with
 than political wrangles. The origin of this
 disease seems to be in Asia, and its pro
 gress is singular. May it not have pre
 valence in ancient times, and caused the
 downfall of ancient nations, whose ru
 ins attest their former grandeur? Of
 the history of the world we know but lit
 tle, and the cosmogony of Moses is con
 sidered as very doubtful, by our Geologists.
4 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind N.E. but
 the sun out at noon; the day most
 ly cloudy.
5 Thursday. m. fair, wind N;
 sun seen at noon & then clouds
 covered the sky until night~
 From the latest intelligence from France
 it is evident that the nation is for
 a settled state, and what will be the
 final plan of its constitution is very doubt
 ful. One thing is certain. Viz. without
 maintaining a strong military force, no
 government can be supported in that
 vacillating country: and it is a quest
 ion whether the people have advanced any
 whit towards a free government since their
 revolution of 1791. We wish freedom

Unset
t[l]ed state }
of France }

Octr
5
not ready for a free Government }
to all nations, but the boon is
but an empty name among a people unprepared for it, and []
business meets no restraint, and here
the promoters of the revolution seem to
have lost sight of discretion. Let the nation adopt a constitution of universal
suffrage, ten to one it would end in an
archy or a military despotism as must
be the case in all old nations with
an overstocked population where the
people are not instructed in moral principles, and due obedience to the laws.
6 Friday m. fair wind N. and
the day fair & very pleasant.

Discov ery of the 8th satelite of Saturn }
Letter from President Everett and Mr Bond, of the 25th & 26 of Septem
published in the Boston papers, Announced the discovery of the 8th satellite
of Saturn. Then while we improve
on telescopes we discover more &
more of the structure of the solar system
and where ends the wonderful machine? With eight satellites and
her [—] ring, Saturn can never be
destitute of light. While we discover new planets & satellites. All
are evidently go around in their
orbits, by the great law of gravitation developed by Newton.
Wonderful man! of whom the Poet says:

“Nature & natures laws lay hid in night
God said let Newton be, & all was light”¹⁷
If since the time of this Sage, practical astronomy has advanced, it
is to be attributed to a more perfect construction of instruments; but
not to the development of new principles. Even La Place in his reckoned calculations, followed the path opened by Newton.
Astronomy! [] & science!
excelling

¹⁷ Alexander Pope, Epitaph intended for Isaac Newton

Octr excelling all others in conception in
6 grandeur in sublimity and exalting the
 human mind to a rank almost
 super human. Continue they re
 searches into the [] of space
 until the fiat, "thou far mayest thou
come and not further", forbids []
 their progress. to human knowledge.

7 Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W.;
 day fair & pleasant.
Our woods now, particularly on the
side towards the setting sun pre
sent the fall hue, which to me,
always provides agreeable sens
ations.

8 Sunday. m. fair, wind N
 and day, clear and agreeable.

9 Monday. M. fair wind SW
 and clear day.

[] }
[] }
[] }
[] }

The decay of the leaf of our deciduous trees,
seen in this month, being the pre
cursor of winter, we might suppose
would produce gloomy [] but this is
not the effect. No season of the
year presents more charms to me
There is a sort of pleasing melancholy placidness
in the atmosphere which excites calm
reflection, and turns back the mind
to retrospection, and the scenes of youth
are strikingly impressed. This retrospection
also brings to view the lives & characters
of our forefathers, and the scenes of these
times, as we have heard them related by
the actors who participated in them.
and these oral relations make a deeper
impression on the minds of youth than
when read in printed histories.
These October reflections may be pecu
liar to myself, but I believe they are
in some degree natural to contemplative
minds. The spring season may produced some
lively sensations, but not more useful.

Octr
10
 Davis & Squiers
 work on the western mounds }
 Tuesday m. cloudy, wind S.W.
 PM fair and pleasant
 In James Halls work entitled The West, printed at Cincinnati 1848, I find a notice of the forthcoming work of Dr. Davis & Mr Squier of Chillicothe, on the western mounds. Which is said to be an important work, throwing much light on this perplexing subject. The work, we are informed, is nearly ready for sale, but probably will be expensive, from its numerous plates. To collect the materials for this work, the two gentlemen, it is said, have pursued their researches with great zeal and perseverance, critically examining the interior of the mounds & other works found in the western country. and making drawings of the objects found in them. If the Gentlemen have removed the veil which has so long shrouded these mementos of an ancient people, unknown in history, they will have performed a task, for which every inquiring mind will bestow the highest thanks. The work, we are informed, is under the patronage of our national Institute.

11
 Wednesday. m. fair, wind and the day
 Dr Gra hams lecture }
 Last evening Dr Graham of Northampton delivered a lecture in our town Hall on the political character of Mr Van Buren, in which, it is said, he proved the total unfitness of that gentleman for President. The Doctor promises to continue his lecture next Wednesday evening at our town hall He is said to be a first rate orator & most favorable argument. and it is hoped he

Octr
11

to be
contin
ued
next
Wednes
day eve

will make a salutary impression upon the mistaken zeal of the party calling themselves the party of free soil, who seem to have shut their eyes to the designs of the leaders of the loco-foco party in the northern states. evidently acting without the least regard to the welfare of our country. Had this loco party alone, nominated Mr Van Buren for the presidency, they would have acted consistently with their disorganizing plans; for in his election, or that of General Cass, they would have obtained the man of their hearts. But when I see honest men, hitherto deemed friends of true liberty, so lost to discretion as to cast their votes for a man so strongly opposed to the welfare of the country as has been Mr Van Buren, I cannot but despair of a continuation of our Government under the form of liberty. Until this time I have flattered myself, that the good sense of a majority of the northern people, would preserve our liberties; but my confidence in this safe ground, is now much diminished, and I fear our future history will tell a "sad tale of glory gone", a tale from which it will appear, that a people with the best designs, attempted to establish liberty on the rights of man, but from a want of political virtue, fell back to anarchy and its concomitant misery. This will be a dark chapter in our history, and future generations may long lament our want of wisdom at a time when every prospect favored success in the establishment of a system of Government favorable to the rights of the people. In a word, no event has occurred of late so threatening to liberty as the nomination of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency.

12 Thursday. m. fair, wind W; the day was fair & pleasant.

The Greenfield Gazette announces the
death

Octr
12

Death
of Gen
Lang
ley

His cha
racter
as a
military
officer

death of Hon. Thomas Langley of Hawley, on the 24th of September, last, aged 74. A writer gives us an account of his civil life, but omits every thing relating to his militia ry—not even noticing his title as a Brigadier Gen eral of our militia, or his service, as Colonel of a regiment, in which capacity he commanded a detached regiment at South Boston in the war of 1812.

As a militia officer Gen. Langley acquired notoriety by his assiduous application to the study of tactics, and his regiment was noted for its readiness in maneuver and its orderly conduct on parade, little inferior to standing troops. All this, the writer to whom I have alluded, may deem as of no importance, in the life of a civilian, and therefore studiously keep it out of view; as incompatible with, a distort ed scheme of Christianity which denies the right of [] even in a defensive war. Gen. Langley was not of this stamp. He possessed a taste for military science, and studied it as a duty he owed his country.

Gen Langley's ancestors were military men; his Grandfather, on the maternal side, Lawrence, served in the campaign of 1758 under Gen. Abercrombie, as a Captain, and fell nobly fighting with a body of Indians near Half way Brook in the State of New York that year. His father, Edmond Langley served in the campaign of 1776, at Ticonderoga under Gen. St. Clair, and after the war, was elected Colonel of a regiment of militia, in the Country of Hampshire in Massachusetts: and two of the Generals younger brothers were respectable officers in the militia—one a Colonel & the other a Captain.

Gen Langley, though but once called to the tented field, by his faithfulness & assiduity

won

Octr won the esteem of his fellow citizens,
12 and demonstrated his ability for actual service. In the various offices
 he sustained in civil life, he was remarkable for his faithfulness and
 punctuality, and his townsmen and intimate friends, will long remember his worth as a military man & citizen.

13 Friday. m fair, wind N.E., followed by a fair & pleasant day. All is calm, serene & reflective [] older scenes flit before me like half-recollected dreams—I recall the memories of deceased friends, their exploits, their adventures, their virtues, and for a moment fancy I am conversing with a former roll of worthies and though the vegetable world is now putting on its somber dress, I perceive harmonies—wonderful harmonies in nature evincing wisdom, power & goodness in a great first cause—the Creator & preserver of the universe Incomprehensible Being! of whom man can form but an imperfect conception, but of whose existence ample proof is found in every part of his works. Here we stop, wonder & admire

Reflec
tions
on the
Season }
14 Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W. and a fair pleasant day, much of the character of yesterday. If at any time I feel inclined to make a tour it is at this season; but my age admonishes me that my traveling days are past, and that home & friends are my best resources of enjoyment. Still I [] over distant

Octr
14

countries in a sort of rail road speed
and sometimes take flight to the planet
ary regions; whence a view of the
universe is as confined as from
our little earth. What then is man
in the great scale of nature! A
microscope used [—] a mere point
Still, by a due use of his reasoning
faculties, he is capable of deep research
and improvement in knowledge:
“Then say not man’s imperfect, heav’n in fault;
Say rather man’s as perfect as he ought;
His knowledge measur’d to his state and place
His time a moment, and a point his space”¹⁸

15 Sunday. M fair, wind N.E. and
fair day, very clear.

16 Monday m. partially cloudy, wind SW
and the day generally clear.

Discov
of a
mam
moth
tooth } We learn that a mammoth tooth, weighing
7 ¼ lbs. has been found at Mount Holly
in Vermont, excavating the rail-road,
imbedded in a mass of gravel 10 or 15 feet
below the surface of the ground. If this
is a fact, we have another proof of
the change the earth’s surface has under
gone since its creation. We were not
aware of the existence of these relics in New
England, and especially on our moun
tains, since they are generally found in allu
vial regions.

Re
flec
tions }

In contemplating these changes of the
surface of the Globe; interesting objects are
presented. To adopt the language of the
Bakewell, an English Geologist “What va
rious reflections arrived upon the mind,
if we carry back our thoughts to the time
when the whole surface of the globe was
agitated by tumultuous & conflicting ele
ments; or to the succeeding intervals of repose
when all were one vast solitude; and

¹⁸ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man, Epistle 1*

Octr 16 again to a subsequent period, when the deep solitude of nature was broken by the bellowing of the great mastodon and the mammoth, who stalked the lords of creation, and perished in the last grand revolution of the globe before the formation of man!" Introduction to Geology, page 429.

17 Tuesday, m partially cloudy, some rain, wind SW & warm air; clouds soon broken & day fair. In general We are now absolutely inundated with political lectures, preparatory to the coming elections; and if every country was in state of the [] it is at this time. The anomalous bifurcation of the free soil party indicates a rotten foundation in the political edifice, which if not thoroughly repaired render it incapable of withstanding the whirl winds now threatening it with total ruin.

18 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N this day, partially cloudy In the morning Elizabeth and little Charles arrived from Halifax, where they had been at her fathers house one week. She confirms the account of the mammoth tooth dug up at mount Holly, which she saw on her route

19 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE and the day cloudy & rainy~ Last evening I attended the 2d Lecture of Dr Graham at our town-hall He was diffuse, favorable and conclusive, occupied at least three hours, riveting the attention of the audience. When on his [] [], I lost the chain of his argument

Party
lect
ures }
Dr Gra
hams
2d lec
ture }

Octr
19

but in his address, and two hours previous conversation at Col. Wilson's I found in him intellect of a rare kind. If in any thing I differed from him, it was in his estimation of the worth and talents of what we call our Great men; and, on this subject much may be said, and many erroneous notions corrected. The position I assume is- A man my be great on some points and below medioc rity on others, merely from his at tentions to particular subjects. to & the neglect of others. Thus I have seen for instance, Great Lawyers who were very little versed in Nat ural philosophy. and mathmat ical deductions; and no man is found to be in Encyclopaedia. Dr. Graham it is evident has extended his status to a variety of subjects and passes the happy talent of communicating his ideas in [] & favorable language. If his theories are sometimes to refined for ordi nary capacities they are still ingenious and demand con sideration. On the subject of phre nology I found him leaning to the system, yet far from adopting its absurdities, and if I under stood him discarded the notion of separate organs. He thinks however that the anatomy of the brain as [] [] [], is deserving of little respect. New conformations may be suggested, but still the ~~the~~ com bined ardor of matter & mind will remain a mystery.

Octr 20 Friday m. cloudy wind NW
 A Loco
 foco
 Conven
 tion } At noon clear, and PM fair &
 cloudy & the air becoming cold
 This day a loco-foco assemblage
 at Greenfield, with public speakers
 from various parts of the State, for the
 purpose of keeping up the party.
 From their ill success for several years
 past in Massachusetts, an increase of mem
 bers at this time is not to be looked for.
 But the rise of the Van Buren party
 has given a new spring to the locos, and they
 hope by some means to reap profit from
 it. In drawing votes from the Whigs, for
 Van Buren, they know that virtually they
 aid the election of Gen. Cass. The object no
 doubt is, to prevent a choice of the electoral
 ticket of the Whigs in Massachusetts by
 the people; and if some of their party
 should vote for Van Buren, they risk no
 thing, for in case of his election, they would
 find the man of their hearts; and in the
 case of no choice of President by the people
 they feel little fear of the result in Congress.
 The present course of the anti slavery par
 ty, is anomalous in stupid—is suicidal
 and its direct tendency, the election
 of Cass to the presidency, in which case
 slavery will be as triumphant as in the
 administration of Van Buren.

Its Saturday. M. fair, wind NE and
 object } the day fine & cloudy.
 21 The topics of the week have been po
 litical, increasing in intensity as we
 approach the election—contest, as
 if nothing else were worthy of con
 sideration. To what is this []
 situation of the people owing? []
 to the influence of demagogues who
 have poisoned the minds of the people
 by misrepresentations, began in the adminis
 tration of Washington & wickedly continued
 to this day under the name of democracy

Octr Sunday m. fair, wind NW and
22 the day fair; the air decreasing
 in its temperature

23 Monday m. fair, wind W and
 a fair & fine day.

24 Tuesday m. cloudy, wind NW,
 the day continued cloudy with some
 rain.

Our com mon field }
 The proprietors of our common field
held a meeting to regulate its fall
feeding. At a previous meeting, they
had voted to prohibit all feeding,
excepting by cows, which produced
a considerable excitement; and the
object of the present meeting was
to repeal the former vote. It ap
pears that three parties are now
formed, one to shut the field against
any feeding, another to feed with
cows only, and the other to feed with
all kinds of cattle, as has been the
former practice~

Prceed ings of proprie tors }
 The party for no feeding claim
to act from economical ground,
believing that the fertility of the land would
be [] by suffering the feed
to remain as a manure. But
admitting this to be true, it remains
a question whether this advantage
would compensate for the loss of
the feed, in the fall season, and
adding about a month to the barn
feeding? In our climate the winter
feeding of stock is [-] upon the
profits of the farmer, and to add
a month to that season seems to be
an unnecessary expensive [] hardly within

Octr
24

the rules of economy; and the confining of the field to cow only, is evidently unjust to the large land holders, who have a stock of other cattle. General feeding has been the practice ever since the town has been settled, and our fathers were not blind to their interest. But in these days of improvement we are full of the theoretical experiments many of which prove abortive, and recoil upon the good sense of their projectors. While we are thus innovating upon former practices, it is to be regretted that party spirit is too prevalent; but is not this the effects of our political wrangling, whose tendency is to prostrate all moral obligations, and generous feelings, towards our fellow men. Let us not forget that the happiness of society depends on the humane feelings of its members, and that when these become extinct, society is far from being a blessing.

25

Wednesday. M. fair, wind W and a fine pleasant day. While nature puts on its placid attire man, who claims to be the only rational animal on earth, is restless, uneasy, and turbulent; and in this; as well as other parts of the civilized world, he seems to be approaching a state of anarchy, all former lessons of experience and repudiated, and utopian theories are substituted as improvements!

26

Thursday. M. hazy, wind S.W. Pm the clouds thickened & shut out the sun. and the air cold, Another Lecture at our town hall in the evening in aid of the Van Buren cause & election of Gen. Cass.

Octr
26 The zeal with which certain leaders
of this [] pursue it, is of a
singular character and not much
less hostile to the welfare of the Country
than Jacobism democracy. Since the
first organization of the party now
claiming the name of free soil, I have
kept a watchful eye upon their con-
duct; but though I had perceived
a leaning towards democracy, I had
not anticipated so sudden coal
essence with that party. If any
doubts remained of the designs of
the party, it is now removed. Their
opposition to Governor Briggs, Reed
and the Whig members of Congress
from this state all determined oppo-
sers of slavery—winds beyond reason-
able doubt, that they have expressed
the cause of democracy in its most
deleterious forms. Knowing as they
do, that their efforts for the Van
Buren ticket will result in the elec-
tion of Gen. Cass, they are no longer
to be considered doubtful in their
political course. Already some
of them speak of Cass as a patriot
superior in talent to Webster, or Clay or Tay-
lor, or any other to whom the whigs
are willing to submit intrust the Government
of the United States. His divestiture
of disguise, may be beneficial to the
liberty of the country, by showing who
are its friends and enemies. But the
democratic party will be managed
by the acquisition of these envigilinis and
their ruinous schemes be continued to
the total prostration of liberty in the
Union, if not entirely checked.

Van
Buren
Lecture }
In
aid of
demo-
cracy }

Real
senti-
ments
of the
party }

27 Friday m fair; wind NE; the
day fair but cool. By a late account
at Boston, it appears that Europe remains
in an unsettled state & the final result is []

Octr
27 In France the Constitution re
mains unfinished, and syptoms
indicate a return to monarchy. Seri
ous disturbances have occurred
in the national assembly and cries
of viva Robespierre and up
with guillotine have been heard among
the people~ Is the nation prepared
for a free government? Clearly not &
without a strong military force. Such
a government could not exist a day.
The democracy of France is unenlightened,
furious, and ready for any excesses,
and the informed part of community
have committed an error in supposing
a majority of the people prepared for a
free government, and, in fact, de
mands our commiseration. If in the
United States, we are exempted from
these excesses, it is owing to a more chastened
character and a habit of submitting to a
majority; but it must be admitted that
were one too much under the influence
of unprincipled demagogues who would
invert the order of nature for the gratify
cation of their evil propensities. Let the
honest and discerning men of the com
munity keep and open eye upon the
designs of these disturbers of harmony & ra
tional government, and we may yet be
come a great & happy people.

[] }
of France }
ominous }

28 Saturday. m. fair, wind SW; the
day fair & pleasant.
During the week past the intelligence
from Europe is of a gloomy character.
and nothing cheering is seen by the phi
lantropist; the democratic spirit per
vales the nations, but unfortunately
without the intelligence requested for
free governments. While a large por
tion of the people remain on this con
diction liberty to them, will be but
another name for licentiousness. By

Octr

28

News
from
Europe}

By the arrival of a steamer at N. York last Wednesday, on a passage of eleven days, we learn that Vienna, after a severe contest, is in the hands of insurgents, the Empiro having fled.

The same arrival informs us that 27 cases of cholera had occurred in London and several in Edinburgh. Probably the disease will reach America, bore the lapse of many months. The origin and progress of this disease baffles investigation & remains a mystery.

29

Sunday m. cloudy & rainy, wind SW; the day continued cloudy with rain We hear of the sudden death of Samuel Field Esqr. of this town, last night aged 73. Mr Field death was sudden" he returned home from Greenfield about dusk, was taken ill soon after and died before midnight, his standing in society was respectable, and he many warm friends, besides family who mourn his loss.

30

Monday. m cloudy, wind N.W.
and the day fair & pleasant.
I am now perusing the 3d Series of Buck ingham's Travels in the United States.
in 3 Vols 8 vo. entitled the Eastern & Western States. his travels in the slave states (2 vols

Buck
ingham's
Travels}

I have already perused. The author is copious in his views, claims to be impartial and free from prejudice & perhaps is more so than English travelers in general. The work is embellished with elegant plates, and presents a great extent of information in relation to our country and is [] by many high characters in

Octr
30

England, whose attention is now turned to our country, with the early history of which, Mr Buckingham seems to be extensively acquainted, and gives ~~hold~~ the first settlement of places visited, as well as their progress. ~~and~~ Of course his work embraces much of history and geography, as well as anecdotes of the early settlers.

Mr Buckingham extended his travels into ----- ~~into~~ nearly all the states of the Union, and has collected a mass of intelligence which cannot fail to interest discerning minds.

31

Trees
&
woods
aspect
of

Tuesday. m cloudy & rainy, wind SW the day continued cloudy with some rain. Our trees and mountain woods, divested of their foliage, present a winter aspect; but though trees apparently deprived of life, they are under elaboration for a [] existence, as calorie is diffused by the rays of the returning sun. Not so with animals: they live to moderate grow, and decline in a comparatively short time then die, and are soon separated into their constituent of elements by decomposition. Trees ultimately undergo a [] process, but some continue to flourish for many centuries, as if beyond the laws of decay.

November 1848~

1

Wednesday. m. fair, wind SW and a fair day. and very clear atmosphere More Mammoth remains found on the Rutland rail-road. By a letter of 20th instant, Mrs Gillant informs

Nov

1

Tusk
of a
mam
moth
found

my son's wife, now here, that a Horn (tusk of a mammoth) 7 or 8 feet in length has been dug from their rail road, but does not state whether the tusk was found at or near the place where the mammoth tooth was excavated; but the two relics prove that the mammoth was once an inhabitant of Vermont: and perhaps other relics will be found, in excavating the road.

See page 204.

2

Thursday. m. fair wind W and the day fair & rather cool. Daughter Elizabeth & Charly entered the cars for Greenfield, & thence to go by stage to her father's at Halifax. They left our depot at 3 ½ o'clock PM and I fear will make a late arrival.

3

Mr
Ash
mans
ad
dress

Friday. m. partially clear. George Ashman Esqr, our member of Congress, is to deliver an address in the evening to our people, on the coming elections. Among the politicians of the day, this Gentleman justly claims ranks in the highest order, his opposition to the unconstitutional strides of President Polk in the late war with Mexico; is too well known to be forgotten; And let it be remembered, that a party as summing the name of the free soil party are endeavoring by misrepresentation to prevent his reelection to Congress, which they are ready to cast their votes for Martin Van Buren for the Presidency. As indeed shade of

Washington

Novr
3
to be delivered }
at our Hall }

Washington, look down with filial
pity and commiserate upon thy
wandering Children , who from a
deep sense of the wrongs of the op-
pressed blacks of the south, have lost
sight of the errors of our Government,
and the dignity once the bases of
northern republicans.

From my knowledge of Mr Ash-
mans, honesty, integrity and ability
I believe he will acquit himself
honorably ~~to himself~~ and satisfactorily
to the unprejudiced part of his audience.
I regret that my impaired hearing pre-
vents my attendance on the address.

4

Saturday. M partially cloudy, wind
and the day

Its full attend }
ance }

The address of Mr. Ashman last evening
was attended by a large assembly from
this town and Greenfield, with a band of
musick, and our town hall filled to
repletion. For more than three hours
the orator riveted the attention of the
audience to the important truths
he developed, in his most happy man-
ner, and the duplicity of Martin
Van Buren was forcibly portrayed
in all of its twisting & turnings to the
dismay of his advocates, who must
have felt the recklessness of their nomi-
nation. The address was timely and
it is believed, will provided a useful ef-
fect in reclaiming the wavering, and con-
firming the steady friends of the country
in the course they are pursuing.

& ef }
fects }

We are now close upon the Presidential, as
well as the state elections, and may all re-
pair to the ballot boxes as a duty they owe
to the society of which they are members
not with indifference or rashness, but with
steady principles of rectitude, and love
of order; and in the choice of candidates
for offices, may none be biased by under-

Novr
4

Gen }
Cass }

His
course }
if elect
ed }

Free }
Soil }
party }

influences of party spirit,--all
regarding the duty they owe to
their conscious to their country
and their God.

In touching upon the claims of Gen
Cass to the Presidency, Mr Ashman made
no attacks upon his private character
but placed his objections to him, on
his political principles, which are equal
ly [] to the country as Mr Polk's, [—]
[—] election in all his sympathies be
ing southern, and his thirst for
conquest the same as those of that
reckless chief, whose motto was
"Total extinction of European territory
in North America." A motto al
ready embraced by Gen Cass

and whether the Island of Cuba,
or the British provinces on our north
receive the first fraternal hug, is
the question. Another democratic
dynasty will probably settle the
the point. The present condition of
Great Britain may invite a northern
expedition; but the annexation of Cu
ba will be more congenial to our south
ern brethren, who feel the importance;
of continuing slavery in that Island;
and would our northern democracy
interpose obstructions to this []
movement?

But our sagacious "Free soil" breth
ren see not no evil in conquer
of terrty provided slavery be from
it. That such men should be rea
dy to cast their votes, for a Van Buren
is not a matter of wonder; nor
would a complete [] with de
mocracy surprise me. Under these im
pressions I almost [] of the []
of our country.

Novr
5 Sunday. m cloudy with rain
wind S. and mild air; Day
continued rainy nearly throughout, frequently
severe.
Within my recollection sweeping
floods occurred in our meadow, of
ten it was opened for feeding, and
the cattle were sometimes ex
posed to drowning.
About sun sett, the weather fair and
wind changed to N.E.
After heavy falls of rain we sometimes
see a sudden change to a clear sky.
may not this be caused by the fall of
the of the whole aqueous vapor composing the
clouds in which case the expression
the fall of a cloud" may not be imp
proper.
The water sustained in the atmos
phere, in aqueous vapor, or chemical
solution, is supposed to be great,
probably varying at different times,
but no certain data offer by which
to determining the quantity. By care
ful observation of the quantity of
rain fallen in a given time and on
known surface, may give a clue to
a solution; but still the quantity which
falls in dew will render the result very
doubtful; and perhaps we can never
arrive at anything beyond conqut
tive.

6 Monday. M. fair, wind SW; the
day fair but many clouds at PM
In the evening Elizabeth, little Charly
& her brother Franklin, arrived
from Halifax, in a family carriage
Asiatic Cholera. In a communication
from Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston
inserted in the papers of that City, he says

Novr
6
Dr
Jackson
disserta
tion on
this Chole
ra.

"I do not believe that the Asiatic Cholera will prevail to any considerable extent in the New-England states, for the geological character of the country appears opposed to it. I believe I made reference to the influence of calcareous soils in the induction of the cholera in my letter to Dr. James Jackson, on the cholera in Vienna, which letters were published in the autumn of 1832, in the Boston American medical magazine."

The following is an extract of a Lecture delivered by him, in Boston, December 31st, 1834.

Its prev
alence
on cal
cacous
soils

"The progress of the Asiatic Cholera, shows also that there is such a thing as Medi
cal Geology, for the cities situated on limestone or tertiary soils have always suffered most severely from that scourge. I have repeatedly advised, that on the occurrence of the cholera in this country, persons who might be fearful of that disease, would find a safe refuge in the primary regions of New England.

[]
tive
regions
less lia
ble to it

"We have a right to infer that since it never has visited the granit countries of Switzerland or Tyrol in Europe, while it followed the calcareous districts around; and districts of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont or Massachusetts; while it did follow the calcareous formations through Canada, New York Ohio and along the Mississippi that the cacarous soil or water had much to with the production of the disease.

We know that the bowels of any [] man who travels through the cacarous [—] districts of the western states, are much disturbed by the action of bicarbonate of lime, which is contained in the water, and hence we might naturally infer that such a disturbing course

Novr
6
Its
course
on the
map of
the Globe}

might render the constitution more liable to the cholera which has its seat in the stomach and small intestines. Take a map of the Globe and trace the river of the Asiatic cholera, and then examine into the Geological [] [] of its tracks, and you will find that it is calcareous and that the principal [] of the disease were in tertiary bottoms, where the springs and well water and highly charged with salts of lime. Vienna & Paris are the two best known of the caceous tertiary basins, and those cities you will know the cholera committed its most fearful ravages."

Re
mar
ks }

Whether the Doctor's theory is sound we know not; but it is flattering to the primitive regions of New-England where, in the former visit of the disease to their country, it was unknown. If this be the origin of the disease the atmospheric theory is set aside.~

7

Town
meet
ing }

Tuesday m. fair, wind W. and day all are flocking to the ballot-box to deposit their votes for Electors of President of the United States. The nominees are Gen. Zachary Taylor (Whig) Gen. Cass (Democrat) and Martin Van Buren (non descript) This triangular contest evinces a disturbed state of the public mind, which ought not to exist among an enlightened people.

Votes
for Elec
tors }

Result of Votes in the town:

Whig ticket ---162	}
Democrat-----131	
Free Soil-----111	Total 404

Taking the above as a specimen of the votes of the state, there will be no choice of electors in which case the Governor will call an extra session of the General Court, to elect a ticket for the Senate &., at an expense chargeable to the [] of a few rash backers who look not to consequences.

Novr
8

Election}
Return }

the
third
party}

Its ru
inous
effects}

Wednesday m. fair, wind S.
and the day fair, but cold
From returns given in the Springfield
daily Republican of this morning, it is prob
able that there is no choice of Electors
by the people; the democratic and
non-descript tickets, containing a
plurality: of course an extra meeting
of the General Court will be called.
This is, I believe the first failure that
ever occurred of the kind, in the State,
and does it not show a deplorable
state of the public mind? Can a
people thus divided long maintain
their liberty?

Hitherto the Conservative or Whig
party, have had to contend with
democracy, in its wildest forms; but
who looked for the rise of another
party with principles equally wild
if not more ruinous than those of
democracy.

In this third party we see men who
have hitherto commanded our esteem &
confidence for their supposed soundness
of principle; but when we see them
casting their votes for one grown
grey in error and supported slavery
in all of its forms, we are astonished
confounded and recoil from the
anomalous scene, and ask if consist
ency is a virtue, or moral obliga
tions incumbent duties.

By our constitutions the right of voting
is guaranteed to all, but, none have a
right to vote heedlessly or corruptly
and without regard to the public
weal. The creation of a third party
may be fraught with more evil than
is seen on a slight view. Its effect may
be to stop the wheels of Government
by preventing a choice of officers
in either party, in which case anarchy
must insue. Let then its promoters
open their eyes to the evils they are
inflicting on their country & their children
and posterity at large.

Novr
9

Favorable
reports
of the
election}

Re
marks}

my
son's
arriv
al

Thursday m cloudy with a
sprinkling of snow on the ground, and
wind W; the day fair.

Reports in favor of the Taylor ticket
electors, are very flattering in the
Springfield Daily, of this morn. His
final success will be hailed with joy
by the patriots of the country, and, it
is believed, will exempt it from a
Polk misrule, for the term of four
years. The state of New-York, it is
said, has performed wonders on the
part of the Whigs—elected its Whig
governor, Lt. Governor and many mem
bers of Congress of the same character.

Massachusetts has suffered the most
from the Van Buren tornado; but
it is believed, its Legislature will
set the state to rights in an extra
session. It now remains to be
seen what will be the course of the
democratic & Van Buren parties in the
state election next Monday. A coale
scence would not be surprising to
those who have witnessed their aba
tions, Where a people have cast
aside honorable principles, all cal
culation is set at naught, and an
upright course is out of the question.
The men who have raised this torna
do, should be marked with indelible
characters, significant of their in
discretion and folly~

In the afternoon my Son Arthur
arrived from the City of New-York
which he left yesterday, and he con
firms the report of General Taylor's elec
tion, and the Whig success in the State
of New-York.

A democratic lecture in the evening, at
our town hall, soliciting aid from our
Van Buren converts at the election of
State officers, on Monday next, []
if

Novr 9 if obtained from this source, may not be ready to submit to the de mocratic dril, nor to the implicit obedience, to orders so necessary in in the discipline of the democratic corps.

10 Friday. m. fair, wind N and day fair, cold.

Further report of the election of Electors. } The election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency, is stated as certain in the Springfield Daily of this morning. If so, the democratic plans of conquest are put at rest for four years But it is mortifying to the patriot, that the Van Buren delusion has made so much progress in our State, where we boast of political knowledge. The people it is hoped, will turn from this [] the danger of placing confidence in men of doubtful patriotism.

That the people of this commonwealth should have been so far deceived as to cast votes for Martin Van Buren, is one of the most singular anomalies that has occurred within our knowledge; and whether the leaders of the plan, will join the old opposition party, is to be seen. Such a coalescence would evince a dereliction of principle not looked for in men who had been deemed honorable~

The present condition of the U. States bodes nothing very favorable to the permanency of our Union. If Gen Taylor's election is certain, we may look for peace and prosperity during his term; but that indeed we may for a man of a different character; for democracy will never consent to rest in repose since it flourishes best in a storm. Under a wise and steady administration the [] principles & ambitions as [] []

Reflec tions } }

Novr
10
 Natu
ral
 course
 of a
 free
 gover
 ment } Seeing no chance for promotion
 he commences the work of disorgan
 ization by deluding the people with
 false pretences, even claims to patriotism
 and the discontinued part of commu
 nity so on follow in his trail; and
 thus a new party burst forth
 claiming reform for its basis.
 To insure success men of eminent
 talents & street integrity must be repudi
 ated as aristocrats and the clamorous demagogue singled
 out for places of trust; while the deluded
 mass spout hosannas for the progress
 of reform and true liberty.
 To these facts the present Van Buren
 party, indicate a total blindness or
 callous indifference. We will not say
 they are conscious of error, for among
 them we believe are many honest men
 but egregiously deceived, their sympa
 thy for the opprest slave having []
 [] their judgments. For their oppo
 sition to slavery we blame them not,
 since we are in no respects below them
 in opposing this horrible evil, but
 differ in the mode of accomplishing it.
 more reflection, we believe, would
 show them their error and bring
 them back to their duty as enlightened
 republicans.

11 Saturday. M. fair, wind N.E.
 and day fair, but scattering
 clouds, and air cold. indi
 cating an early approach of
 winter, the [] we give to the
 season of snow generally from
 5 to 6 months duration in which the
 farmer is compelled to support his
 stock of animals from his barn
 magazines, an expensive unavoid
 able in winter countries—a
 draw back upon his profits.

Novr 12 Sunday, m cloudy, wind N
 and the ground covered with snow
 the day continued cloudy with
 some snow.
 Of the State election }
 tomorrow }
 Tomorrow our state Elections take place, and we are to see whether the Van Buren party will persist in their reckless course in defeating the choice of Governor and other officers. A defeat of the choice of the present members of Congress would be gratifying to the southern slaveholders, and add nothing to the success of the Van Buren party.
 The fable of the dog in the manger is a striking exemplification of this course of this party. While the canine sentinel preserved the fodder in the manger, he found nothing for his voracious maw, and starved himself~
 The Van Buren party }
 The fable of the dog in the manger is a striking exemplification of this course of this party. While the canine sentinel preserved the fodder in the manger, he found nothing for his voracious maw, and starved himself~
 13 Monday m. cloudy, wind NE
 and the ground fully covered with snow: the sun out before noon, & rest of day fair.
 attended meeting for choice of Gov. Lt. Gov. Senators and representatives for General Court and Congress, and deposited the Whig ticket, as the only one to insure safety and prosperity to our Country. Two other tickets, democratic & Van Buren, being run. In the present divided condition of the people, there is little probability of any choice, and a [] contest may result in the downfall of our liberties. a fate common to a people where universal suffrage is the basis of the government. Were all the voters

[]

Novr [] by calm reflection
 13 and sound judgment differences
 in political sentiment would be
 rare, and the government moves
 smoothly onwards, and the peo
 ple be happy and prosperous

Votes []
 cast
 in past } The following [] of votes is
 reported to me:
 For Governor Briggs 163.—Cushing 117
 Van Buren ticket, 82.

Representative to General Court:
Zebina Stebbins Whig, 154, Ira Ab
ercrombie, democrat, 111, Henry K
Hoyt (Van Buren) 89, -- no choice, and
 meeting dissolved. Votes from George Ashman
 representative to Congress (Whig)
 votes for Whig Senators Devin, Blake

14 Tuesday m. fair, wind N, and
 day fair and the snow nearly dis
 olved.

Having put through the perturbations
 of the elections we now hope to see harmo
 ny and kind feelings prevailing among
 the people. These annual contest, are
 demoralizing in a high degree, and
 destructive of social intercourse. Let
 the honest part of community hearken
 less to the disorganizing demagogue
 and it is believed this unhappy state
 of things would subside and har
 mony be again restored for our []
 Unfortunately, for the country A por
 tion of the people have mis
 taken licentiousness for liberty, and
 imbibed the notion that men of emi
 nent talents are aristocratical, and
 enemies to the common people; have
 in selecting candidates for office, they
 carefully avoid those above medioc
raty, unless to higher acquirements
 be added a base submission to a
 wild party, whose object is the

Reflec
 tions
 on
 elections }

Novr
14 repudiation of all former systems
of government, and the adoption
of utopian schemes not less wild
than themselves: This has been
and I fear will be, the bane of
free governments, where the honest
part of community act under
the influence of unprincipled
demagogues, who would reverse
the order of nature to carry out
their evil designs. May the
good sense of the people, no longer
be misled by these enemies
of pure republicanism.

Influ
ence of
Dem
agogues }
15 Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind
S.W. and day cloudy, but
sun seen at the close~
From returns of the state elections
given Boston papers of yesterday,
it is highly probable that Governor
Briggs is reelected by the people;
they state also, that 6 of the Whig
representative to Congress are
reelected and Mr Ashman, of
our district, by a handsome
majority. This the Van Buren
meteor flashed for a moment and
then dissipated in smoke. The
old democratic party appears to be
on the decline; and it is hoped it
will, at length, give up its oppose
tion to a rational system of republic
can government, and return to har
mony and good feeling.

Of the
State
Election }
16 Thursday. M. fair, wind SW, and
day fair & pleasant.
In the evening Mr David S Hoyt
read to me a Lecture on Cometary
worlds, from 'His Planetary
and Stellar Worlds of O.M. Mitchel
Director of the Cincinnati Observa
tory 1 Vol. recently published at N. York
The

Mitch
el's Lec
tures }
16

Novr
16

Come
tary
World }
The Lecture is an able exposition
of the subject, and evinces much
knowledge of the researches now
making, and made, in Europe in the
science of Astronomy.

Myst
erious }
On the theory of a resisting medi
dium in space, retarding the mo
tion of comets in their orbits, Mr Mitch
el expresses doubts and seems inclin
ed to believe this retardation may be
from other causes. On the rationale of
the tails of comets, he gives the sugges
tions of Sir John Herchel, of a repul
sive force in the sun capable of repel
ling matter of a certain gravity existing
in comets. The subject is intricate and
perhaps admits of no certain solution
But, says Mr Mitchel, "as ambiguity pre
dicted that the time would come
when the comets would be traced in their
career, then periods revealed and
their orbits ascertained so we may
confidently hope that at no very dist
and day, all the mysteries which
hang around these chaotic worlds
will be fully revealed, and a know
ledge of their physical condition should
reward the long study and deep
research of the human mind."

17

Depart
ure
of son
& family }
Friday. m fair, wind West and
the day clear, & cloudy towards night,
At 10 o'clock AM my son, wife and
their little Charles, took the rail road
cars for Greenfield; thence to proceed
via Bellows falls, to Vergennes, by
stage. Parting with them produces
sensations some what disturbing; but
as the engagements of my son on the
rail road, are important to him and
his family, I submit to the deprivation
without complaint. His employment
is arduous, and requires close attention
and unremitting action. Another
year, he thinks, will be required to
complete the road and put it in op
eration.

for
Ver
genes }
The

Novr
17 The whole extent of the road from Burlington to Bellows falls is stated to be miles, which at 20 thousand dollars per mile amounts of dollars; but this probably will not cover the expens of the bridges, engines, cars &c.

Bur
lington
& Rut
land
rail
road } If rail roads at this cost will afford profit to stockholders, and keep them in repair, I am mistaken in my calculations. On routes between great marts they may do this but to multiply them on short routes is unwise. A rail road from Boston to to Albany, or some other port on the great western road, may sustain itself, but another between the same places will prove a failure, and this the eagle eyed capitalists will foresee~

Remarks
on
rail
roads } The zeal for rail roads has outstript the rules of prudence and moun tain barriers are now claimed but trifling impediments; and it is not uncommon to hear men talk of the case of tunnel ing four or five miles through elevated ridges of primitive rocks. But experience will at length show that rail roads are out of place in mountainous regions, except ing on routes parallel to the elevations.

18 Saturday m. fair, wind N.E. and day very clear and pleasant. The chief topics for the two past weeks, has been the Presidential election and that of our State officers; and it is now Generally believed that Governor Briggs and

Novr
18

The Elec
tions }
 others of the Whig ticket, succeeded beyond expectation. From the strength of the Van Buren ticket in the choice of electors of the President, it was feared the state electors would be defeated but it appears that the Whigs of the State, have sustained their cause most nobly, and that the Van Buren effort was but an ignis fatuus which misted for a moment, while the democratic party was diminished to comparative pittance. This augers with the cause of liberty and order.

The election of General Taylor to the Presidency, it is believed, will stop the progress of vandalic conquest restore justice to our country check the pernicious war spirit which prevails among our young people from false notions of military glory, and show our demagogues, that their disorganizing schemes will not be embraced by a majority of the people, who have access to truth

19 Sunday. m fair, wind N.E.
 and day (afternoon) cloudy and air cool. indicating the approach of winter—a season in which the old hear the “call of years” and sensibly feel the decay of the vital functions, which once seemed to defy all vicissitudes of seasons.

20 Monday m cloudy, with snow which fell last night to the depth of 6 inches; wind N; the day continued clouded & a portion of it falling snow, and winter seems to have commenced. This is about 15 days earlier than than the commencement of the last winter (December 5th)

Snow }
 6 inch
es }

Novr
21

Mitch
els
Lectures
on as
tronomy

Motion
of the
solar
system

Its rev
olution
round
a central
point

Tuesday m fair, wind SW
and the day continued
Among the literary works lately
come to hand, none have more
deeply engaged by attention than
“The Planetary and Stellar Worlds
of Mr. Mitchel, Director of the
Cincinnati observatory. The work
is comprised in 10 Lectures, with
lescopic views. The last 4 are
particularly interesting from the
new matter they develop in relation
to the Discovery of new Planets;
the Cometary worlds, the Scale
on which the Universe is brittle
and the motions & Revolutions
of the fixed stars.
The 10th lecture claims to have
shown the wonderful result
“that the sun, attended by all of its
planets, satellites & comets, is sweeping
through space towards the star marked
u in the Constellation Hercules, with
a distance equal to thirty three milli
ons, three hundred & fifty thousand
miles in every year.”
The direction of the solar system
had previously been pointed out
by Sir William Herschell; but it was
left to later astronomers to establish
the fact; among whom the Lectures
name the Russian astronomers
Argelandor, Struve (& Peters)
This motion of the solar system
being established, and also that gravi
tion extends throughout the stellar
worlds, it became necessary to ascertain
a point, or some [] central body
round which the whole must re
volve; and this has of late become

Novr
21
 Proba
ble []
 of this
 point } a grand problem of astronomers.
 nor, according to Mr Mitchel have
 they been unsuccessful.~
 M. Maldhr, the director of the
Dorpat observatory (in Russia)
 believing there must be a centre of
gravity, as certainly as there is one
 in our solar system, has pursued
 the subject with apparent success.
 and his conclusion is that Alcyone
the principal star in the group of
the Pleides, now occupies the center
of gravity, and is at present the sun
about which the universe of stars
composing our astral system are
revolving. (See Lecture 10, page 314)
 Of the time of our sun's revolution
 in this orbit, nothing certain can
 be known until the distance of Alcy
 one be determined; but from an ap
proximate parallax of this star, derived
 from a comparison with others as
 curtained by Bissell & other astron
 omers within a few years, the time
 is stated at 18,200,000 years. This
 great luminary then, with all its plan
 ets, satellites and comets, will have com
 pleted one revolution around its grand
 centre in that time. Hence the question
 will present, whether the numerous
nebula discovered, revolve about the
 same point, or each has its central
 point, like our astral system?
 The subject is sublime, and shows
 the vast extent of the human mind
 when aided by mathematical investi
 gations, and discretion of the telescope.

Approx
imate
time of
Sun's
revolu
tion
stated }
 22 Wednesday. m cloudy, but soon fair
 with NE wind; rest of day fair
 An extra Session of our General
 Court commences at Boston tomorrow for the
 choice of electors of President of the
 United States. This session is the
 effect of the wild Van Buren movement

Novr

23

My at
tention
turned
to astron
omy

Thursday m. fair, wind N
and day generally fair

The perusal of Mitchel's Lectures on Astronomy has turned my attention to that sublime science for which I once had a considerable taste. Most of the old astronomers confined themselves to the solar system, in which they have made great progress; but have touched briefly on the stellar worlds, which a want of parallax [] prevented them from penetrating into that abyss.

Hershall's
research
es

The researches of Sir William Herschel with his superb telescope opened the path for future discoveries, and in 1837 & 38 Bessel the

Later
Astron
omers

quiet astronomer of Koeningsburgh determined the parallax of the star 61 Cygni (or the Swan) and the heretofore impossible gulf of space was traversed and the distance to the sphere of the fixed stars measured. Astronomers are

Astronom
ical in
struments

now boldly plunging into the unexplored region, and handing out to the world recondite facts, once thought beyond the reach of human effort. Whether astronomical instruments will ever be carried to greater perfection than those we now possess, is doubtful; for perfection can never be attained, since the materials of which they are constructed are variable from different temperatures. All we

can

Novr
23

can anticipate is the correction of differences by taking means of the observations, a specimen of which we see in the methods of Borda. See Sir John Herschel's Astronomy Chap. 2. in which he treats upon the errors of astronomical instruments and the difficulty of constructing them. But if practical astronomy is re traded by want of perfection in instruments, one unerring probe is in the hands of man: I allude to the principles of mathematics, which carry conviction to the minds of all who understand them~

24

Rail
roads
in snow
countries

Friday m. partially cloudy, wind W; the day became cloudy and rain fell moderately. Since the fall of snow last week our rail road trains have suffered some irregularities in their movements. If this be the effect of a 6 inch snow, what would be that of one of 2 or 3 feet? Rail roads in countries liable to deep snows have appeared to me misplaced, as in Canada & on our northern states. Modes of clearing the roads are adapted, but where the snows are frequent & deep this is not easily performed; but if cleared, the road is very liable to be again covered by drifting snows.

These difficulties should not be overlooked in the location & construction of rail roads

25

Saturday. M. foggy, wind SW but clear before noon; day fair Our roads are now free from snow as also some of the hill sides~ The last intelligence of Europe still presents a gloomy aspect of affairs.

Sunday. M. cloudy, wind W
fair before sun set.

Novr 26 In the evening my friend D.S.
More of Mitchel's Lectures } Hoyt favored me with the reading of one of Mitchel's astronomical lectures, in which the author traces the process of Copernicus in determining the true structure of the star system, and that of Kepler in developing the laws of planetary movements in elliptical orbits.

Copernicus & Kepler } These discoveries removed many of the difficulties that had embarrassed astronomers, and the grand discovery of universal gravitation only, remained to complete the machine and this was reserved for Newton.

27 Monday m. cloudy, but soon fair and win W. day fair.

28 Tuesday m. fair, wind SW
P.M. thin overspreading clouds.
The choice of Electors for President at the special session of our Gen. Court at Boston last week, stood as follows:

Whig ticket	196	Hence 196-37+65
Free soil do	37	=94 majority of
Cass ticket	65	Whigs for Taylor
	total 298	

29 Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.
and the day fair & pleasant
The success of the Taylor ticket will be a damper to the plans of the democratic party, who in selecting Gen. Cass had in view further conquests of territory & the carrying out the schemes of Mr. Polk. The Island of Cuba was the next object, and then, the British provinces in N & NE of the United States. Four years postponement of their benevolent plans will be ill [] by the party.
and

Novr
29

and some of Mr Polk's new
fledged generals may be out of employment
and forgotten, and the favorable time
lost while Europe is in a revolu
tionary state. In the defeat of
Gen. Cass, the leaders of our demo
cracy will see their plans of con
quest frustrated, unless they can
dupe the free soil party to join their
ranks, which is not a very im
prable issue, after giving their
votes for a man of the character of
Martin Van Buren. But should
this scheme prove unsuccessful, let not
Gen. Taylor flatter himself that the
White House will prove a bed of down
for hower pure may be his admin
istration, he will not escape the
vituperations heaped upon our
great patriot George Washington in the
second term of his administration, "Where
(to use his own words as expressed in a
letter to Mr Jefferson), every act of
my administration should be tor
tured, and the grossest end must
insidious misrepresentations of them
be made, by giving one side only
of a subject, and that too in such
exaggerated and indecent terms as could
scarcely be applied to a Nero—to a
notorious defaulter—or even to a
common pick-pocket."~

But in in a country where uni
versal suffrage is the basis of the gov
ernment, and the press is open to
the slanders of corrupt men, the
mass of the people, though honest
themselves, may be deceived and led
on to the greatest excesses under the
impression that they are exercising
the rights and liberties of freedom. As
a specimen of their excesses, "the reign
of terror" in France under Robespierre
[] be cited.

Novr Thursday m foggy, but soon fair
30 wind S.W; fair day.
At the invitation of Col. Bryant I
went to S Deerfield to spend thanks
giving day; ~~m.~~ fair & most of the
day.

December 1 Friday m. fair, wind westerly;
stayed at Col. Bryants.

visit }
to 2 Saturday m rainy, wind S.
South } and a rainy day, stayed in Quarters
Deerfield 3 Sunday m. fair, wind W, and
fair weather, returned home about
1 PM with Col. Bryant & part
of his family a clear day.

Letter }
from 2 Recd. a Letter from Arthurs family
my friend } announcing their safe return to Vergennes
 and their intended movement to
 Burlington where they are to spend
 the winter~
The Valley of S. Deerfield is on the
increase & it now present a handsom
appearance; the population mostly
from various parts of the country pre
sent varieties of character, but
generally of the New-England sort

4 Monday m. fair, wind NW
 but P.M cloudy—sun set fair
Death } Congress Session at Washington
of Mrs } commences this day.
Nancy } We hear of the death of Mrs Nancy
Hoyt } Hoyt widow of the late Ebenezer Hoyt
 She died at her sons house at Athol
 and her corps is brought here for
 interment in the burying ground
 near the Baptist Church in Wisdom
 ; her age 73 years.

December Tuesday m cloudy,
 5 Wind NE; the day cloudy with some rain
 Reflec Three months from this time, will
 tions terminate President Polk's term of mis
 on the rule and the Government will pass
 Mexican into new hands, and no patriot
 War will regret the change, if the
 government returns to the prin
 ciples of justice and the true
 interests of the people. In selecting
 Mr. Polk for the Presidency, the ob
 ject was clearly foreseen by the dis
 cerning part of community: viz the conquest
 of the northern part of Mexico; but
 whether this will prove a valua
 ble acquisition to the United States, is
 yet to be seen. But the work of con
 quest is not completed. Gen. Cass
 was to take the White House, and
 complete the business; not only in
 south but in the north & north
 east. His disappointment howe
 ever may retard the benevolent bu
 siness for years; but democracy
 will not abandon their plans;
N America, at least must be brought
 under one head, and the Governments
 of Europe taught that long possession
 confers no right to territory
 when found convenient for a contig
 us nation to occupy it.

Mr In his invasions of Mexico Mr
 Polk's Polk has told us that his armies
 olive have carried the olive branch in
 branch their van: An olive branch indeed!
 and such as was borne by the hordes
 of Attila, when he invaded the
 Roman Empire~ In his closing message
 to Congress, Mr Polk will probably attempt
 to gloss over his conduct; but it is much too
 late to claim an honorable course

Decembr 6	<u>Wednesday</u> m. cloudy, with rain; wind N.E. the day continued cloudy & wet
7	<u>Thursday</u> m. cloudy, wind NE and the day continued the same
Colmans agricul tural Reports } 9 th & 10 th }	I have just received (on my Sons subscription) the 9 th and 10 th Reports on European Agriculture and Rural Economy, by Henry Colman The work is composed in 2 Vols 8 vo and embraces much useful matter for the agriculturist. The facts were collected by the author during a residence of several years, in England & other parts of Europe, from personal observations, and printed in London and Boston in numbers as they were ready for the press, and is of a miscellaneous character, rather than a systematic treatise; but perhaps not the less useful from this arrangement. Mr Colman has now completed his task & returned to this country; and none, I think, will say his visit to Europe [] his researches and observations will be useless to his country, or to Europe to which he extended his researches.~
Re marks on agri cultural works }	Books on Architecture ¹⁹ have been multiplied to a considerable extent within a few years past, and it is a favorable circumstance that men of science are turning their attention to the subject. In perusing their works we perceive that the great desideration is the due application of manures, and the draining of water from wet soils. Without these processes the products of soils will be small and the cultivator ill paid for his labor.

¹⁹ He likely means agriculture

December
7 In new countries where forests have existed for centuries, the surface soil becomes a mass of manure and requires no additional food for plants for several years, but at length this vegetable matter becomes extinct and manures must be resorted to. Hence Agriculture in old countries becomes of more importance than in new soils however composed can never become permanently fertile without a portion of vegetable or animal matter in a state of decomposition. To supply this food is the great object of Agriculture. Other manures of a chemical character are now employed; but these in general may be considered as stimulants to the vegetable & animal matter found in soils, and must at length exhaust the fertility of soils without a supply of real manures

8 Friday m cloudy, wind SW,
and the day
We learn from the papers that
Edward Everett President of the
University at Cambridge, has resigned his office on account of declining health. To be deprived of the extensive learning of this Gentleman is a misfortune which the public will sensibly feel. The rank our university has attained, must not be lowered; and among our literary & scientific men we doubt not that some may be found competent to the duties of President; but who will be the successor Mr Everett, we cannot conjecture.

President Everett's resignation }
 }

December Saturday M. fair, wind N.
 9 PM became cloudy and so
 Electoral College } remained until towards sun set
 of Mass On the 6th instant the Electoral Col-
 lege of Massachusetts met at Boston
 and cast their 12 votes for General
 Zachary Taylor for President of the
 United States. and the same vote
 for Millard Fillmore Vice President.
 The success of the Whig ticket is no
 longer doubtful. One more than
 the Executor power is to be lodged
 in the hands of a man who looks
 to the good of the country instead of
 support of a party; and we
 trust the democratic spirit for
 conquest will be allayed for
 at least for the term of four years.
 and in the mean time Cuba and
 the Canadas remain under their
 respective governments.

10 Sunday m cloudy, wind NE; the
 day continued cloudy & in the
 afternoon considerable rain, and
 a dense fog rested on the mountains.
 Dark cloudy weather } During such weather I am deprived
 embar rass my reading } of the pleasure of reading, which is
 no small reduction of my enjoyment
 I early imbibed a taste for reading
 but from a want of books, was
 unable to gratify it to much extent
 An extensive library in the county
 towns, at that time, was rare.
 But since my access to books, I
 my long [] of } think I may say, that not a
 day, and scarcely an hour has
 passed when I was at leisure
 and retired from company, in
 which I have not indulged in

December persuing works on all subjects
 10 I thought important for improvement; and thanks to the goodness of my eyes, until within two or three years past, I have never been denied that enjoyment.

My method of perusal }
 Favorite Authors }

Favor
ite Au
thors }

My method has been to examine all works, which fell into my hands and & to give such as I found respectable, a thorough perusal at the same time reserving the right to contest them, when I deemed them erroneous. The works which I have preferred are those of a scientific character having for their foundation the exact sciences; but history, geography, voyage and travels, have always been held in high estimation, as important branches of knowledge. Other works have claimed my attention, among which I may mention Poetry, a peculiar composition, in which I claim no skill, but often read with delight.
 With works of imagination, which we term novels & romances, I must say, I have seldom been charmed. nor have found time to peruse. In general they show little else than the ingenuity of the writers and are destitute of useful lessons for enquiring minds.

11 Monday M. fair, wind W.
 PM became cloudy, and so held till sunset, but the air moderated for the season~
 Our papers contain President Polk's message to Congress, occupying twelve columns of an ordinary news-paper. Taking it be granted

Mr Polks messages }

Decembr
11
Presi
dents }
message}

that the war with Mexico was just and necessary on our part he [] [] its glory by the extent of his conquests, keeping his outrages invasion of the country and his unconstitutional strides at its commencement, out of view. In this he acts with prudence since no apology he could present to the people would remove the impression of injustice he committed at the outset, in ordering Gen. Taylor from the Nueces to the Rio Grand the direct purpose of provoking hostility on the part of Mexico. If his plan of conquest was then concealed from the public eye, every member of his cabinet will understand it, as well as his advisors in all parts of the United States; and after the conquest of the city of Mexico by Gen. Scott, there were among Mr Polks friends, men who urged the conquest of the whole of Mexico to be added to the original plan and the prosecution of the war until this object was effected. But the expense of the war was a [] er: the reflecting part of the people now began to look to the causes of the war, and it was at once perceived that it was founded on injustice and a spirit of conquest, no better than vandalic robbery. They checked the operations of Mr Polk & his clan, and they [] considered that the Rio Grand, and the southern lines of New Mexico & north California should be the southern boundary of our conquests. A forced treaty was agreed on, but to cover the turpitude of the acquisition a [] indemnity

Decemr. 11 was granted to Mexico, to be paid in installments, provided she is duly submissive to our future course. It now remains for Mr Polk and his copse to reconcile these proceedings with the principles of justice & humanity, and we look in vain for this in his long message to Congress.

Condition of Mexico } Mexico is in fact a conquered nation and if permitted to remain independent, she must submit to our caprice without complaint or remonstrance. She may be allowed to send to our Court resident ministers, pro forma; but in case of another misunderstanding between the two nations what but the most obsequious language of his ministerial agents will be admitted; and remonstrance for wrongs is out of the question.

12 Tuesday M cloudy, wind W, and so continued through the day. We learn that a vessel arrived at New York last week, from Havore in France with several cases of the Cholera on board. As the disease is supposed non-contagious, hopes are entertained that it will not extend beyond Staten Island where the patients are confined; But until more is known of the causes ~~of the disease~~ and progress of the disease, little reliance can be placed on theoretical opinions. The cause of the disease is involved in mystery and its singular progress equally so; and what will be its extent and fatality in this country we know not,

Cole ra at N. York } Cole
ra at
N. York }

December
13 Wednesday m. partially fair, but soon cloudy, & wind N. and the day cloudy & some sun seen
Letter } to my friends at Burlington
son & } Vermont where they have taken []
wife } for the winter, at the northern terminam of the rail road.

14 Thursday. M. cloudy, wind N. last nigh a sprinkling of snow.
The weath } The day continued cloudy & fog rested on the mountains
er In this state of the atmosphere I notice that the railroad Engineers give off a more dense body of smoke than in clear weath er. Is this owing to a diminished atmosphere pressure, which at the same time, prevents the ascention of the aqueous vapor During this state of the atmosphere snow, I believe, rarely falls.

Meteor ological }
olog } considera tions } The process of nature in the formation of clouds, rain, hail and snow, may not be clearly understood; but it is believed that by the laws of evaporation condensation & crystalline conge lation, they may be explained with some degree of certainty, yet in all, it is probable that electricity has some agency as well as the laws of Chemical composition.

15 Friday. m. cloudy, wind South and the day became fair afternoon The appearance of a bright sun after so long, observation is pleasing and invigorating to all
[] animal spirits.

December 16 Saturday M. the sun
 seen, but soon shrouded
 by thick clouds & the wind S
 the day continued the same. We are now
 entirely free from snow, and the
 weather is moderate for the season,
 and there is little, or no, frost
 in the ground~

17 Sunday. M. fair wind West
 and the day clear and & very pleas-
 ant. Last night some rain fell
 Continuing the perusal of Mr
 Buckinghams Travels in America
 I find in the 2d Vol. of his last series
 notices of Antiquities found in the
 Ohio regions, indicating a Jewish
 and an Egyptian origin. Mr
 B. relies on Preist's American
antiquities, a work I have
 read, but which, to say the
 least, I have considered of doubt-
 ful authority.

Buck-
ingham }
Travels }

Nature }
of Anti-
quities }

That a race of men far more
 improved, than the present In-
 dians once inhabited this region
 there can be little or no doubt.
 But that the Jews or Egyptians
 should have found their way to
 this Continent, and penetrated to the
 Ohio is not easily conceived though
 Mr Preist thinks he has pointed
 out the way. The work of Messers
Squires & Davis, just published, it is
 hoped will throw light on the
 subject, if not solve the problem
 which has perplexed antiquarians. Mr
 Preist's account of the Jewish phylacteries
 said to be found at Rusfield []
 too much of the marvelous to obtain belief

Mr }
Preists }
work }

Decr
17

Mum
mies
of Ken
tucky }
 The discovery of a Cave of Mum
 mies, near Lexington in Kentucky
 in 1775, as related by Mr Preist, if
 we admit the fact, appears a
 proof that the Egyptian art of
 embalming, had, by some means,
 reached this country; but it
 appears he obtained his account
 from the traveler Ash, whose Book
 has generally been considered a
 Romance. See Buckingham Chap. 22, Vol. 2d.
 (3d Series) for further particulars.

18

Munn's
Scientif
ic Amer
ican }
Monday. M. fair, wind SW and
 day fair, with agreeable air
 The Scientific American: This
 is a weekly paper published at the
 City of New-York by ____ Munn & Co.
 and I think is conducted with
 considerable ability. Its design is to
 promote the mechanic Arts: but
 it often treats of the higher branch
 es of science; and notices the im
 provements now making in the civ
 ilized world. A publication of
 this hence requires a man of intel
 ligence & close application, and Mr
 Munn seem to be competent to the
 task. If we now & then see Uto
 pian schemes introduced, they are
 generally from those who have
 limited their studies to a small cir
 cle; but these generally receive a check
 from the pen of the editor.
 Among our mechanical men of
 limited study, we often find those
 who are competent of their supposed
 discoveries & improvements, yet are
 not aware that they are laboring on
 plans already known. Hence
 the patent office at Washington, is
 infested by applicants for patents
 who for the first time learn that they
 have made no new discovery,

Hence

Decr 18 Hence it may be remarked, the task resting on the hands of the Superintendent of that office, is intricate and difficult, and requires an extensive knowledge of the circle of arts and sciences, rarely found in one individual. A complete list of all the patents granted by this office, would present articles from improved mouse traps to the complicated machinery of steam ships.

19 Tuesday m cloudy with fog, and wind SW and day fair but many broken clouds.

20 Wednesday m cloudy, and NE and the day cloudy

21 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE; last night a sprinkling of snow: the day continued cloudy with a little fall of snow. In the evening the snow fell pretty freely in [] [] flakes.

22 Friday m Cloudy with snow fall, and NE wind- Snow about 6 inches, and more at night. The sun having reached the southern tropical our days are at the shortest duration, and the sun's Dist = our Lat. + Declination. From this time to the vernal equinox we may look for winter weather.

23 Saturday m. fair wind NE snow about 12 inches in depth' and day clear. Sleighs are now substituted for wheel carriages and winter assumes its reign, but the rivers continue open The day affording sufficient light for my injured eyes, I accompanied Mr Buckingham

Decr
23
Buck
ing
ham }

Buckingham from St Louis up the Mississippi to the rapids of De Moins The Steam boat in which embarked was to ascend to the falls of St Anthony but the water being low the boat was compelled to return to St Louis. Mr B. gives an interesting description of the country on each of the river, with the settlements on its banks The waters of the Mississippi above the junction of the Missouri are represented pure & wholesome and the country healthy; and within a few years will probably present many handsome & populous towns.

Embarking at St Louis Mr. B proceeds on the river to the mouth of the Illinois, thence up that river to Ottawa and thence in a stage coach to Chicago, passing several extensive prairies of the richest soil both on the Illinois & on the canal route; but the banks of that river are represented as rather unfavorable to health. Mount Joliette, on the latter, he thinks is an artificial work, of which I think there is some doubts. See Chap. 13 & 14 vol. 3d.

24

Sunday m cloudy with some snow and wind N.; last night very cold the continued cloudy with snow and some fine hail & cold air

Thermometer in the mor 3° below zero

25

Monday m. cloudy, wind North cloudy and foggy, with some rain. The occurrence of rain immediately after one or two days of intense cold air, presents a problem for meteorologists; but perhaps more inexplicable the [] other atmospherical phenomena

and

Decr
25 And until we are more
 thoroughly acquainted with atmos-
 pheric laws, we may in vain at-
 tempt to explain the phenomena
 which the atmosphere exhibits.

26 Tuesday M partially fair,
 wind NW brisk last night
Buck The day mostly fair & cold
ing Finished the perusal of the 3 or
ham last Vols of Buckingham's Travels
con in the U States, which he closes on
cluded } his departure from Niaga to Toronto
 in Upper Canada. The work is
 interesting, & on the whole instructing
In his histories of the places he visit-
ed, he embraces much that is
known to one already acquainted
with history of our Country But
repetitions of this kind do not lessen
the value of the work, since to many
they will be new. At the close of
the 3 Vol. he indirectly promises a set
on the Canadas & other British provin-
ces in America, which I believe he
has preformed, making 9 in the whole
The first three I have not met with
No European, it is believed, has
extended his travels so widely in the
United States as Mr Buckingham;
and their publication will afford
the people of Europe, a vast mass
of information concerning our Country
and probably increase the tide
of emigration from that quarter
of the world, where a large por-
tion of human beings subsist on
ly by manual labor.

27 Wednesday m cloudy, wind NE;
 a day cloudy and snow fell
 the after part of it air cold.

Decr
27 In Vol 3d, Chap 19, page 414 of
Buckingham's Travels we have account
of Ancient Garden beds, so called
found in the state of Michigan.
 Ancient Garden beds in Mich igan } Mr. B takes his description from a Mr Blois, historian of the State, who says: The ancient Garden beds are found near St Joseph's and Kal amazoo rivers: They exist in some of the prairies and live oak plains in the richest soils, and cover from 20 to 100 acres, and some a much larger extent. Some are laid out in different directions and rectilineal & curve, [] [] figures, either distinct or combined scalloped work, with alleys between and apparently ample walks or avenues leading in different directions, displaying a taste that would not describe it a modern pleasure garden.
 The Gardens, Mr Blois says, coincidently bear the stamp of antiquity & civilization of ambiguity, as they are often found overgrown with live-oaks of an age precluding their construction within the last two centuries, at least; besides the Indians belonging to the ancient peninsular tribes, to all interrogatives on the subject, betray the same ignorance of their origin and history, as they do of the mounds & forts. Of the existence of these gardens, I was not aware until I read Mr. Buckingham's travels; and if the accounts can be relied on as correct, they furnish additional evidence that a race of people far advanced of the present Indians, once inhabited our western country.

28 Thursday. m fair, wind West
day, fair & cold
In the cours of our journal we
have often hinted at the plan of
democracy

Decr
28

Nego
tiation
with
Spain
for the
Island of
Cuba } democracy for obtaining possession of the Island of Cuba, and that this was to follow the conquest of Northern Mexico. We entertained no doubt. By the proceedings of Congress, we now see that this plan has been in operation by Mr Polk. In the Congress Senate a motion has been made for calling upon the President for information concerning correspondence had with the government of Spain for the purchase of the Island of Cuba. A purchase of the Island would hardly meet the wishes of democracy since possession may be obtained by annexation ala mode de Texas, with the aid of volunteers. A sale of the Island might be a wise step for Spain since she is sure to part with it either by purchase or invasion, by us: The negotiation with Spain was intended as a preparatory for Gen. Cass had he been elected to the Presidency. but whether Gen. Taylor will continue the scheme we are to see. But of one thing we may be sure: Viz: that democracy will never rest until the annexation is accomplished.

29 Friday. m. cloudy with some snow the wind NE; & cold air. the day the same. The weather is now of the usual temperature of winter and the snow all good depth for sleighing, & sledding of wood; but our river now partly bridged with ice of course we have no access to the wood on our western hills and our field has become expensive land and increases in value as population increases.

Decr
29
Fuel
& La
bor }

In New England no ample coal
 [] are found, and it becomes
 a question of importance, by what
 means poverty will find a
 supply of wood for fuel and tim
 ber for building but brick & stone
 be substituted for the latter, still there
 be a deficiency of timber as is seen
 in all old countries. In England
 the inexhaustible coal field supply
 the people with fuel; but in
 France according to Mr Colmans
 last agriculture report, the fuel
 generally used is wood or charcoal
 though there are large deposits
 of mineral coal. But much atten
 tion is paid to planting forests and
 preserving and cherishing such
 as already exist, and the entering
 of the timber is under laws for pre
 serving it.

30

Saturday M cloudy, with some snow
 and wind NE; the sun seen
 at noon, but generally cloudy,
 and cold, but the evening fair.
 Snow is now of considerable depth
 (say 15 inches) and winter reigns
 with vigor; but with close rooms
 good stoves & plenty of fuel we
 are comfortable; wood however
 has become an expensive article, about
 3 dollars per cord, one more when
 sawed & stored in our wood shed.

31

My
birth
day }

Sunday. M fair, wind West & cold
 the day fair until towards sun set.
 This day commences my 84th year
 and finds me a decrepit old man
 with impaired hearing and sight, but
 my health otherwise is tolerably good.
 The failure of my eye sight is the greatest
 inconvenience I experience. With bright
 light I can still read, but in the evening
 I am denied that enjoyment, which
 is no small depreciation. As to

my

Decr
31

Close
of 1848

my memory, I think I may, say my recollection of old events, remain pretty clear: and as I may also say, they remain nearly as good as in my younger days, though perhaps less rapid. The mechanical philosophy we hear of many improvement and doubtless some are really such; but in many instances, they are the fruits of an occult philosophy, which has no foundation in the law of natures. and this kind of philosophy seems to engage many young men who would repudiate all that has been known bearing the stamp of antiquity; evidently the result of a limited knowledge of the principles of mathematical philosophy.

During the past year the political horizon of Europe, has been shrouded with ominous clouds, and whether the people of that region will find their condition ameliorated by revolutions of their governments, is very doubtful. The truth is a portion of the people are striving for new governments, who know not how to govern themselves; and in our country, when liberty is almost without restraint, too many are found of this deception.

At the close of the day, my excellent friend L.B. Lincoln Esqr. handed me the following lines: "To the Hon. E. Hoyt, on his Natal day My honored friend, I welcome thee,
With mind so clear at Eighty three;
May Heav'n its soothing blessings pour
And gently lead to Eighty four.
And when the thread of life is spun
And you and I our work ~~course~~ have done
O May we then hold concerns sweet
In friendships, pure, science retreat."
Deerfield Decr } With much respect
31st 1848 } yours L.B. Lincoln.

1849

Jany

1

Intro
ductory
remark}

Sketch-Book No 23 from Janu
ary 1st 1849 to

Monday m partially fair, wind North
 and the day generally cloudy
 & cold throughout.

In continuing my Journal
 and scraps, I am aware that
 my impaired sight will render
 it difficult to write intelligently
 but daily notations have become
 so habitual that were I to sus
 pend it, I should be like a
 ship at sea, which kept no
 account of its progress and daily
 position. I therefore shall continue
scribbling so long as health permits
 me I find it amusing.

My mode of noticing the weather
 is brief & without a thermometer
 barometer or hygrometer, and the
 winds are generally noticed about 10
 o'clock AM. In noticing the tempera
 ture by the thermometer, three periods
 at least, of the day are necessary-Viz
 near sun rise, noon, & sun set. but
 to be stinted to these periods would
 be a task; and besides the rising
 sun generally finds me in my
my night couch. The pressure of
 the atmosphere being less variable re
 quires less critical observations.

For my occasional scraps it is
 hoped that less will be found
 for criticism, than in Mr Polk's
 wild administration; but the
 perturbation in Europe it is
 probable will furnish materials for
 many remarks; and what will
 be the result of these movement none
 can predict.

We

Jany

1

We hope however, that while the people are striving for liberty, they will not forget its fundamental principles, and whether the people of Europe are prepared for free governments is extremely doubtful~

In our remarks on events we shall endeavor to confine ourselves to objects of utility, reserving the liberty to animadvert upon schemes and projects that are evidently utopian, too many of which are seen in our news-papers, tending to bewilder rather than instruct. We now enter upon 1849; and may it be a happy new year" to all.

2

Tuesday. m. fair, wind West & cold air; the day the Same.

Death
of T.
Harvey
& wife

By a Troy paper we learn that Timothy Harvey & his wife my connections, both died on the 16th of December last, at the City of Troy; he aged 73 & she 78: the last sister to my wife. They have left sons and daughters; one of whom, Willliam a missionary clergyman, died at Bom bay in Hindustan, several years ago.

The death of a man & wife on the same day is singular.

Progress
of Colera

The Cholera we learn, is raging at New-Orleans, & advancing up the Mississippi, but at New-York it is mostly confined to Statten Island.

In the west of Europe, it seems not to have prevailed so extensively as was anticipated

3

Wednesday M. fair & cold, wind N and the day fair & cold. Our Gen. Court assembles this day at Boston. The

Jany
3

The annual assemblage of this body may be a wise provision of the Constitution, since it affords opportunity for the repeal of the old & enact of new lands, which a change of circumstances may require but at the same time there is danger of multiplying them to an unnecessary extent; The statute laws of a country should be carefully framed, duly regarded, & as few as possible.

In the present session it is hoped a spirit of unanimity will prevail and party controls be allayed.

4

Thursday. M. fair, wind West & cold; the day cloudy before sun set.

Hall's
Paleo
ontology
of New
York }

Through the continued kindness of my friend, L.B. Lincoln, I am favored with the perusal of James Hall's Paleontology of New York a superb 4 to Vol. recently printed at Albany, with 90 elegant plates This is the 1st of a series of Vols. which are to follow, as new matter is collected by the author. Mr

Hall evinces much research & knowledge of his subjects. "The work is published expressly for the benefit of the people of the State of New York."

But the author, like many other late scientific writers, seems to have forgotten that his readers are Americans, and not Greeks or Romans.

I am aware of the importance of Classification of the numerous objects in Natural History; but my wonder is excited when I find in a work, written for the American people terms borrowed wholly from the dead languages. Is it a jest that the English language is to barren to afford appropriate

[]

Jan
4
His
[]
ogy }

[]? If so, let us abandon it, and substitute one more perfect.
The present mode of treating some of the branches of natural history is a mere Babel confusion of words entirely unintelligible to the English scholar who looks to the properties and uses of things instead of their names.

If the study of the dead languages has a tendency to promote this mode of writing, then its advantages are far from being so great as is pretended; and indeed if science is to be thus [] as a foreign technology it will soon become locked up in [] retirement unapproachable to the people at large. Mr Hall's work is valuable on many accounts, but we regret that he has so closely adhered to the pedantic mode, which must abate its usefulness. A classification from the English language, would add much to its value~

5
French
election
of Pre
sident }

Friday m cloudy with some snow, and wind NW; at noon fair & so continued through the day
By the last accounts from Europe we learn the Louis Bonaparte has been elected President, (or Emperor) of France, by the people. To point to any services this man has [] the French nation is impossible, but the name of Bonaparte is a charm to the people and hence it is clear, they are not ready for a republican government the leaders of the revolution it is believed, had no anticipation of this event. The

Jany 5
Re marks } The French nation has yet to learn that talent is no guaranty to promotion in a Government based on universal suffrage. Ambition of the fame of Napoleon, this family living may involve Europe in a grand war of which our nation may partake, should this be the result of the French movement no cause for congratulating the people on the progress they have made towards genuine liberty, would be found

6 Saturday. m. cloudy, but the sun soon out; wind West & cold: but most of the day proved cloudy. The snow is now said to be about 2 feet in depth, and the temperature bears something of the character of our old winter seasons, but with less violent winds.

7 Sunday m. fair, wind N.E. and the day clear & rather warmer than yesterday. Yet still cold While we are thus enveloped in a cold atmosphere which congeals water and binds inanimate substances in frost, our bodies in health still retain a temperature not much if any less than in the warmest summer weather. What a [—] [—] wonderful provision of nature [] the wisdom and goodness of the Creator. Physiologists may attempt to explain this process by the laws of animal life; but still the question remains What power enacted these laws? so essential to animal existence?

8 Monday m. cloudy, thermomet $\frac{0}{8}$ and wind NE The day continued generally cloudy & very cold, and laid a heavy tax on our fuel.

Jany 8
 Cold } Day To my neighbors I am indebted for the morning observations of their thermometers: Dr. Williams $\frac{0}{8}$, Ehm Williams $\frac{0}{10}$; Postmaster William $\frac{0}{10}$
 David S Hoyt $\frac{0}{9}$
 Mean of the above $\frac{0}{9}$
 The day, was severely cold and at sun set the wind had changed to the SW, diametrically opposite to the morning observation. Querie: the cause of the change in so cold an atmosphere, and therefore heavier than the southern air?
 In the Evening received a letter from my friends at Burlington, dated Jany 2d Arthur surveying a railroad to St Albans to Burlington.

9 Tuesday m. fair, wind North
 The day being generally clear, the suns rays softened the air in some degree. But as my Protectors were abroad on a call of business, and not one of my friends gave me a call, the day was solitary and I was left to my own resources of amusement. If at any time I am infested with the French ennui, it is in the long winter evenings when my eyes refuse me the pleasure of reading, and my friends omit their calls. I would not however tax my friends with remissness, for they may find amusements far different from my own, & with which I have no right to interfere

A solitary } day

Jany 10 Wednesday m. fair, wind North
 and cold air, the day clear
 This is the eighth day of the Session
 of our General Court, and I am still to
 learn whether Gov. Briggs has been re
 elected by the people! Amidst rail
 roads & telegraphs, this is singular.

Death }
 of Mrs }
 Catlin } The Widow Catlin, our oppo
 site neighbor, died at 2 o'clock PM
 aged 86 years, one of our eldest
 inhabitants.~

11 The temperature of the day it
 is said, is nearly as low as that of
 last Monday last which was a cloudy
 day.~

Am auro sis a dis ease of the eye } Thursday m. fair, very cold, and
 wind North; two thermometer $\frac{0}{10}$ in
 exact coincidence. The day contin
 ued clear and cold.

Looking over a late vocabulary
 I find the term Amaurosis
 (Greek of course) signifying a disease
 of the eye, con[s]isting in a general
 dimness of vision, and caused by
 defects in the power of the retina.
 This, I think, is a good description
 of the disease of my eyes; for I
 find magnifyers of very little
 service : and indeed they render
 letters of the alphabet more ob
 scure. Course point I read without
 glasses, but all kinds are obscure
 in dull light ; nor do magni
 fiers afford much aid; for while
 the letters are enlarged, the height
 is dispersed

12 Friday. m. fair wind NE & very cold
 the day fair & cold. The low temper
 ature reminds us of the old winters
 [] [] years ago.

Jany 12 The cold winter of 1780 is remembered when our revolutionary Army under General Washington, kept their field, in New Jersey either in huts or tents, while the snow was 4 feet in depth, and part of Long Island sound was covered with ice, in the vicinity of New-York City

winter } of 1780 }

13 Saturday m. fair, wind SW
and cold air:- the day became cloudy & so continued
The past week has been severely cold and unfavorable to old people. and I fear my friends at Burlington, about 2 degrees north of us, will find it more intense. The construction of rail-roads in such weather must necessarily be slow and tedious.
During severe cold weather I cannot wholly divest myself apprehensions that our domestic animals suffer, though aware that nature has fitted their conditions to their circumstances.
“Know nature’s children all divided her care;
The fur that warms a monarch, warmed a bear.”²⁰

14 Sunday m partially fair, wind SW; last night a brisk rain
the day fair & cloudy
This change of temperature at this season is not unfrequent, after a series of intense cold weather: and here a question presents to the meteorologist Viz: Why the light southern air flows to the north against the dense air of higher latitudes? Would a gyratory motion of the atmosphere explain the phenomena?

A } rain }

²⁰ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle III.

Jany 15	<p><u>Monday</u> m cloudy, with some snow; wind <u>North</u> and the day cloudy, with slight rain which congealed as it fell.</p>														
Votes for Gove rnor	<p>We have at length received an offici al account of the votes for Gov ernor as cast in November last.</p>														
	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Whole number of votes</td><td>124,055</td></tr> <tr><td>Necessary for a choice</td><td>62,028</td></tr> <tr><td>George N Briggs had</td><td>61,640</td></tr> <tr><td>Stephen C Phillips</td><td>36,011</td></tr> <tr><td>Caleb Cushing</td><td>25,323</td></tr> <tr><td>Frederick Robinson</td><td>473</td></tr> <tr><td>All others</td><td><u>606</u></td></tr> </table>	Whole number of votes	124,055	Necessary for a choice	62,028	George N Briggs had	61,640	Stephen C Phillips	36,011	Caleb Cushing	25,323	Frederick Robinson	473	All others	<u>606</u>
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John Mills	35,801														
Henry W. Cushman	<u>26,670</u>														
Re marks	<p>There being no choice, George N Brigg was chosen Governor, and John Read Lt. Governor, according to the Constitution.</p> <p>This difference of political senti ment, among a people, enjoying a <u>free constitution</u> and all professing to be <u>republicans</u>, is a singular anom aly, regretted by the <u>patriot</u>. But were a plan question in Geometry, submitted to the people, would there be less diversity of opinion?</p>														
16	<p><u>Tuesday</u>, m. fair, wind West. and day fair.</p>														
Two Deaths	<p>We hear of the Death of <u>Thomas Wells Dickinson</u>, one of our industrious farmers, and also of <u>Mrs Root</u> (at Wappin) Mr Dickinson was 65 years of age, & has left a wife and children; he was a son of the late Col. Thomas Wells Dickinson of this town. The peculiar hard fate of the deceased always excited my sym pathy. He felt the cold hand of <u>want</u>, while</p>														

Jany while, [] [] the reward of
16 industry, and diligent labor, he would
have been in easy circumstances.

17 Wednesday. m cloudy, wind W.
but the day generally fair. Some
thawing of the snow from the
south roof of buildings~

18 Thursday m. fair, wind W;
last night strong winds prevailed
the day was fair throughout
and cold ~

19 Friday. m. fair, wind West
and a fair day & cold
We learn that President Hitchcock
and his lady barely escaped a fatal
crash on the rail road between our
depot & burying ground, this afternoon
Caution. Never walk longitudinally
on a rail road. In the case an
untimely train was passing, which
will often be the case, notwithstanding
ing the utmost care. Heavy lo
des moving along a road at the
speed of 20 miles an hour, are danger
ous to the inhabitants in the vicinity.

Nar }
row }
escape }

20 Saturday. m. fair & cold, wind SW;

21 day fair & cold. Thermometer $\frac{1}{0}$
Sunday. m. fair, wind West
day partially cloudy. The weath
has become a little more moderate
than in a few days past, but hard
ly to be attributed to the decrease of
the sun's declination.

22 Monday. m. fair, wind W day
clear & cold. My house clock
having ceased its motion I am left
without graduated time of course
my

My ship's longitude is uncertain, depending on dead-reconing, or generally full of errors. And those in the voyage of life we are bent with currants, counter currants, storms, shoals & rifts, which baffle our skill, and expose us to the greatest danger; and often bar an entrance to the designed port

23 Tuesday m. partially fair, wind W
PM sun frequently out

24 Wednesday m. fair, wind SW
the day fair and cold.
A Gentleman of Albany writes me under the signature of J. Munsell requesting information concerning the death of Miss M.Crea in 1777 as I have given in the transactions of the New York Historical Society. This account I had sent to the late Col. of that City, who I suppose had handed it to the Society. He seems to take an interest in that barbarous event, and is seems at a loss, which among the various accounts, is correct. I think I must give him a letter on the subject. Mr Munsell is a Corresponding member of the N. York Historical Society, of which, I am also a member.

25 Thursday m cloudy, wind SW
and day generally cloudy with slight rain

26 Friday m. cloudy with rain
& SW wind PM part of day fair
and wind NW

Letter from J. Munsell, Albany

Jany 27 Saturday m fair, wind West,
and the day
Last night our river broke up, with
a considerable rise of water and its
channel filled with broken ice, The day
was fair to the close and such the
rize of the river as to stop the operations
of Stebbins mills.

28 Sunday m. fair but soon
Cloudy, wind N.E. and day
generally fair.

29 Monday m. cloudy wind SW
and the day cloudy

30 Tuesday m cloudy, but soon
fair, & wind SW; fair at
noon & then cloudy. and wind SE
Composing a Letter to J. Munsell
Let ter
on the
murder
of Miss
MCrea
of 9
pages }
of
murder
of Jane MCrea at Fort Edward
in 1777, which I find difficult
from my impaired eye sight.
I have endeavored to show Mr Mun
sell that the accounts of Gordon
Ramsey and other early writers
are correct as to the manner of the
murder, but that the place is er
roniously fixed at the Pine tree
inscribed with her name at a
spring north of the village, is not
the spot where she was killed,
and is found in the present wood []
[] up the hill north of the village

Jany
30 The murder of this young Lady made a deep impression at the time, and taught Gen. Burgoyne the danger of employing savages in warfare; and on his return to England, he did he withhold this expression of his opinion.

31 Wednesday. m. fair wind N.E.; last night cold—the day clear. This day closes the month of January, which has, in general, been cold, except at the time of one or two short rains, the last of which broke upon our river, and filled the channel with a mass of ice.

February

1 Thursday m. cloudy & N.E. wind. Last night 2 or 3 inches of snow fell, and the day continued cloudy & cold.

2 Friday. m. cloudy, wind SW and the day generally cloudy Yesterday put a letter of 9 pages into the mail, for J. Munsell Esqr of Albany, on the murder of Miss Jane

Letter M.Crea, being an answer to his of
to J the 20th int. It may, perhaps, be said
Munsell at this thrilling event has become obso
Albany lete and may be left to history.

Re But as the supposed place of the mur
marks der is marked and often visited by
tourists I feel desirous that the true
place and circumstances of the death
should be known; and that the
sympathizing visitant should not pour out
his lamentations on a spot distant
from the place where the unfortunate
Lady fell. The pine at a spring in
the woods has, I am informed, been mark
ed as the spot, by no relyable authority;
and

Feby
2

Mr
C Nel
son's
Book

My
research
es

3

and the story of her murder is now often given, with all the distortions of imagination, some of which represent the character of the victim in an unfavorable light, in dire opposition to the early documents which never lisped a syllable against her respectability. Mr Munsell notices Mr. Charles Nelson's history of Burgoyne's invasion, a book I have not seen, nor any printed notice of it. Is the campaign too old to attract attention?

The Invasion is still within my recollection, being then about 12 years of age, and my subsequent acquaintance with officers and soldiers who served in the campaign has kept the events fresh in my memory; and in several reconnaissances of the country between the mouths of the Mohawk & Ticonderoga since 1817 I have travel out nearly every battle & skirmish that occurred, both in the war 1755 and that of our revolution and the topography of the country is pretty distinctly retained.

If in traversing these fields the bones of fallen heroes are found, useful reflections are elicited and when we learn that here our friends and connexions exposed their lives in the service of their country, we feel a sort of reverence for the ground and leave it with regret.

Saturday m. fair, wind W: the day fair & clear.

Our papers say Mr Webster is engaged in writing a History of President Washington's administration, in full. Such a work will not be received by our democratic leaders very cordially as it

Feby
3 will unmask the base means they resorted to for the destruction of his character and to render him odious to his country. To men of my age who witnessed the rise of the democratic party, Mr Webster will furnish little new matter but to young men his work may be a great importance in correcting the works they have [] through the influence of designing men

Webster }
on Wash }
ingtons }
ingtons }
admin }
istration }

4 Sunday. m. fair, wind S.W.
day fair, but some haze. PM

5 Monday m cloudy, some snow,
wind S.W.; the day continued cloudy and the wind changed to NE.

6 Tuesday m fair, and NE cold
PM cloudy. ~
Eight o'clock in the evening, cloudy with a gentle snow, and no one calls in for a social chat. I sit and gaze upon the fire and recall reminiscences of olden times and scenes. Our forefathers and old acquaintances where are they?—Gone to their long homes and nearly forgotten!
Forgotten did I say? No their virtues still live in reflection, and afford us useful lessons. We see them breasting the savage foe, in their first essays at settlements on the frontiers of the country, and taking the field in distant campaigns when their country called: of which the Upper Hudson, Lakes George & Champlain, afforded generous examples as well as our own Connecticut.

Even }
ing }
reflec }
tions }
while }
alone }

In the French wars and particularly that of 1755, our town afforded a rare race of hardy, resolute & intelligent men who took the field and distinguished themselves

Feby
6
Our }
Fath
ers }

themselves by their gallantry and firm resolution, and have left names & characters worthy of remembrance. With most of these I have been acquainted & from them heard details of their campaigns and adventures, which made a lasting impression upon my mind. With these recollections, and those of the revolutionary war, I am not exactly alone when deprived of company, though much of my enjoyment is abridged by the failure of my eyesight, which prevents my reading by candle light~

7 Wednesday m. fair, wind N.E.
and the day clear, but cold~

8 Thursday. m fair, wind SW
PM cloudy & cold.

Rut
and
rail
road }

Richard Arms, one of my sons assistants, made me a call and gave an account of the progress of the Burlington & Rutland Railroad; He thinks it will be in operation by next fall; the whole distance from Burlington to Bellows falls 116 miles. He represents the weather as having been cold, but the snow much less than in this section of the country. This lack of snow west of the Hoosac range of mountains has often been noticed.

9 Friday M. partially fair, wind W. and snow fell last night 2 or 3 inches; ; the day cold. weather he says has been pretty severe since December.

10 Saturday M fair wind SW and day generally fair & cold. The weather for 5 or 6 weeks has been uniformly cold, with a few exceptions.

Feby Sunday m cloudy, wind SW
 11 and day cloudy
 A letter to my friends at Burling
 ton by Richard Arms, who leaves
 tomorrow morning.

12 Monday. M. cloudy, some snow
 wind NE The day continued
 cloudy and cold, with a sprink
 ling of snow. A very cold day.

13 Tuesday M. fair wind N
 and day clear; the air a little
 softened by the sun's rays.
 Joseph Henry Esqr. of Halifax
 arrived at my house in the evening.
 and took quarters for the night.

14 Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.
 PM cloudy & cold.

15 Thursday m. fair wind SW
 and thermometer $\frac{0}{12}$ to $\frac{0}{14}$, cold
 as any morn this winter The
 day fair & cloudy alternately~
 A letter from my friends at Burling
 ton of the 9th inst. Arthur & Charles
 both afflicted with the whooping cough
 Letter }
 from }
 Burling }
 ton They say they have no sleighing but
 cold weather enough. Esqr Henry
 returned to Halifax, in the forenoon
 and I think will be fortunate if his
 cars escape a nipping. In such
 Green }
 fuel }
 extreme cold it is trying to ones pa
 tience to use green fuel. To insure a fire
 it is necessary to pile on a considerable
 quantity of fuel, and if it burns the water
 evaporated carries off the heat of the stove
 & thereby prevents the heating of the stove & room
 and I now induced to believe dry fuel is the
 []

Feby 16 Friday. m fair wind SW;
 thermometers $\frac{0}{18}$ to $\frac{0}{20}$ PM gener
 ally cloudy

17 Saturday, m. partially cloudy
 wind NE; the day generally cloudy
 and cold enough.

18 Sunday m cloudy, wind NE
 the day fair & cloudy by turns.

19 Monday m. fair, wind W,
 & severely cold—thermometer $\frac{8}{15}$
 and the day clear & cold.

20 Tuesday. m cloudy, wind NW
 thermometer $\frac{0}{10}$, and day cloudy
 and very cold. My fuel being
 green wood I find it difficult to
 keep my room comfortably warm.

21 Wednesday. m. fair, wind NW.
 and the day clear with softened air.
 Since I wrote to Mr. Munsell of
 Albany, he has sent me by mail
 an unbound Vol. of Mr Nelson's Bur
 goyne's Campaign 291 pages 12 mo.
 with a map of Bemus Heights, and al
 so a Letter acknowledging the receipt of
 mine. I shall make a critical in
 section of the work. On a first view
 the map of the ground appears somewhat
 deceptive, and some errors I have already
 noticed.

22 Thursday M cloudy, wind N.E.; day
 the same and in absence of the suns
 rays the air cold.

23 Friday. m cloudy & a [] of snow
 but soon fair wind NE: the after
 noon clear – air softened

Nel
 son's
 Bur
 goyne

Feby Saturday m. fair, wind N.E.
 24 PM mostly cloudy
 25 Sunday m cloudy with some
 snow, wind N, and the day the
 the same excepting snow
 26 Monday. M. fair, wind NE; PM
 generally cloudy & a sprinkling of snow
 27 Tuesday. m cloudy, wind N.
 and the day continued cloudy and
 of course the air cold from a want
 of the sun's rays.
 28 Wednesday M cloud, wind NE
 and the day cloudy.

Cold This month as well as that of Janu
 ness ary has been very cold, excepting
 of the a day or two of the latter, in which
 winter } we had a thaw which broke up
 the ice of our river. The snow is
 now about 10 inches & sleighing good
 but as the sun's declination is only about
 8° S. we may look for warm air
 in the course of a few days. The
 cold winter of 1780 is recollect ed in
 That which, it is said, no melting of the
 of 1780 } snow occurred for six weeks. The tem
 perature, of the present winter, has been
 nearly as low as that of 1780, but not
 so uniformly cold as that is represented.
 nor the snow so deep (from 3 to 4 feet)
 Long On the 7th of February of that year a body
 Island of the enemy's horse said to be about 300
 sound and the 7th British regiment, came over from
 froz Long Island to West Chester on the ice (See
 en Heath's memoirs, page 232)
 Instances of this kind have been
 rare, and I believe do not occur
 [] in modern times.

March 1 Thursday m. cloudy & wind SW
PM fair and cloudy by turns
and the air cold from a want of the
sun's rays. To [] [] the
atmosphere, which has been common
this winter may be attributed the in-
tense cold we have experienced.
during the months of January and
February.

2 Friday m. fair, wind NE and
cold, and the day partially clou-
dy after noon.

3 Saturday m. fair, wind North
and the day was fair
President Polk closes his administra-
tion at the end of this day, and no
patriot will regret it. Let imparti-
al History record the merits of his
political course. His invasion of Mexi-
co for the purpose of the conquest
of territory will ever be a dark
chapter in our annals, and teach
us that a nation to be happy must be
just and honorable.

4 Sunday, M. fair, wind NE
and the day clear from clouds, but
rather cold.

5 Monday M fair, wind NE
the day continued fair & pleasant.
Our annual meeting for the choice
of town officers for the ensuing year.
and the day for the inauguration
of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency.
Of Mr Polk may now retire to Tennessee to resume

March
5

his proper occupation and our democratic war hawks learn that a spirit of conquest is not so generally diffused throughout the country as they had supposed. We cherish the hope that a placid system of Government will be adopted by President Taylor, and that this wild war spirit of conquest will be put at rest.

6

Tuesday m. fair, wind NE at PM cloudy, the air cold. The hills facing the west now present patches of ground, but the snow is of considerable depth in the vallies. Whether the coldness of the winter indicates a late spring is a question of doubtful solution. If the temperature of the earth depended entirely on the sun's rays, we might conclude then a severe winter could be followed by a late spring; but this I believe is not the case, as is evident from the operation of internal forces in the earth as evinced by volcanic phenomena.

7

Wednesday. M cloudy; a little snow falls wind SW and the day cloudy throughout.

8

Thursday m fair, wind W. and day mostly fair & cold.

Departure of my resident family}

This day my resident family, Henry Osgood and wife (Charlotte) left our place and Austin Rice of this town supplies the vacancies.

Mr Osgood is now to go to Sullivan N.H. to reside with his father, at his request. During a residence of nearly two years, he and his wife have afforded me fyll satisfaction in

March 8
 Note of their kind ness } the management of my affairs, and evinced a kindness and care which demands my thanks; and it is pleasing to record, that during their residence with me, not an instance has occurred of misunderstanding, or any thing which could mar good feelings, has happened I part with them and the prosperity and happiness due to worth.

In the evening an Eclips of the moon of between 8 & 9 digits on the south []
 The new determination of the place of the heavenly bodies, and especially of the moon excites my surprise, since her motion is subject to so many causes of variation in its orbit. To construct accurate tables of her motion, must have required the utmost skill of able astronomers who have "sought science in her coy abode."
 9 Friday m. fair, wind NW; the day fair excepting scattering clouds; the air rather cold.
 10 Saturday. m fair, wind W, and a fair day & cold air which may continue through the present month.
 11 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW and very cold; day clear.
 12 Monday m. fair, wind N and day clear; but the sun makes little impression on the snow, & winter still reigns
 13 Tuesday m. fair, wind S.W and the day clear & air softened to an agreeable temperature. Our street maples now afford a copious flow of Sap. This process of nature always excited my wonder. Where the saccharine matter joins in the sap? Is it [] in

March 13 the roots of the tree and propelled upwards to the body in opposition to gravity, by some unknown power on this subject See page 267 of Parkes Chemical Catechism, et seq.

14 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind East; the day was cloudy

15 Thursday m cloudy, wind S the day cloudy with some hail, rain & snow. In the evening Mr Rice was married to Miss Clara Ball of this town & they now constitute my resident family.

16 Friday m. cloudy & wind W; PM fair and snow dissolves.

17 Saturday, m. cloudy but soon broken wind SW PM cloudy

18 Sunday. M. fair, wind West; day partially cloudy & fair at night; air rather cold

19 Monday m. fair, wind W and day fair & cool Recd. letters from my son & wife at Burlington , March 12th All pretty well

20 Tuesday m. fair wind SW, the day hazy. Sun at the vernal equinox and the snow much reduced, or in some places gone.

21 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind NE and last night rain, the day cloudy with moderate rain wind changed to SW

22 Thursday m fair, wind NW, and day fair, Our river has risen over the two banks and flooded the low lands Some of the migrating birds have arrived from unknown regions. Who taught

March
22
migrat }
ing birds }

Re }
marks }

23

taught these erratic emigrants
that the temperature of our latitude
is more prepared for their reception
or do they possess the art of de-
termining the sun's place by intu-
ition? We say they are guided
by instinct; but does this explain
the mystery? Not in the least: We
use a term as inexplicable as the fast
and rest satisfied with learned
technicals.

Friday. m. partially cloudy, wind
SW, and air cold. PM fair
and clear; very little snow to
be seen; but the channel of our
rivers is still bound with brok-
en ice, while the Connecticut, I
am informed, is open. In the
present condition of our river the
existence of its fish appears an
impossibility, and no doubt []
are destroyed by ice floods; but
wherever life is bestowed means
for preserving it are found.

24

Saturday m cloudy wind
SW and most of the day cloudy
and cold. Our General Court
is still in session, dragging on
its slow business by committees,
than which a more tardy mode
cannot be devised.

25

Sunday m cloudy & some rain
wind S.W.; the day continued
the same

26

Monday. m cloudy with snow & wind N
snow

March snow continued most of the day
 26 to 2 inches or more in depth.
 27 Tuesday m. cloudy, with snow
 which fell yesterday & last night to
 the depth of about 6 inches; wind NE
 the aspect is now that of mid winter
 the day continued cloudy with some
 snow and rain.
 28 Wednesday m cloudy, wind N.E.
 & rain; the day continued cloudy
 and the snow has had a rapid
 dissolution. the ground appearing
 in extensive patches. So rapid a
 dissolution was not anticipated in the
 absence of the sun's rays.
 29 Thursday m cloudy, wind NE
 and the day the same. the ground
 again free from snow, excepting
 on the high hills. From the rapid des
 solution of a six inch snow we
 may conclude that the ground is
 free from frost, and has received
 a considerable degree of heat from some
 source; Shall we say from the centr
 ral heat of the earth, or from the
 sun's rays?
 30 Friday m. cloudy, wind NE
 and some rain, the day was cloudy
 throughout, with considerable rain
 31 Saturday. m. cloudy, wind NE
 PM the clouds broke away, lift and
 clear sun.
 April Sunday. M. fair, wind NW.
 1 day partially clear

April Monday m fair, wind W
 2 and fair day & cold, for the season
 3 Tuesday m. fair, wind SW rest
 of the day cloudy, but fair at night
 4 Wednesday m. fair, wind SW
 and fair day~ warm air
 Wrote to my friends at Burlington
 The rail road from that place by Rut
 land to Bellows falls is expected to be
 completed before the close of the year
 When this and the central road are
 finished two routes will be found to
 Boston from Burlington and there
 will be a strife between the two, and
 which will gain the ascendancy is the
 question to be solved. The project of
 a rail road from Greenfield to Troy by
 a tunnel through Hoosac mountain
 I have considered as utopian in the
 extreme, and without a chance
 of success. The project may serve
 us a play thing for theorists, but the
 prudent capitalist will be slow in
 vesting his money on a scheme so vis
 ionary.
 5 Thursday m cloudy, wind SW
 PM fair wind W
 6 Friday m fair, wind NW
 and fair day
 7 Saturday m. fair, wind SW
 PM mostly cloudy
 8 Sunday m fair, wind NW &
 day partly cloudy
 9 Monday m fair wind NE; day
 fair.

April 10 Tuesday m cloudy, wind SW; the day cloudy with some rain
By accounts from the Mississippi 1849 appears that the Cholera is making progress up that river, and has reached Quincey in Illinois. The disease is found on most of the steam boats from New Orleans. Can its contagiousness be doubted?

11 Wednesday m. fair, wind West and day fair & pleasant.
Died this day Mr Aaron Arms aged , and yesterday Mrs. Bard well widow of the late Henry Bardwell

12 Thursday m. fair, wind NE day fair & cool air. Attended library meeting at the Library room on business relating to the dissolution of the Library or cancellation of the Constitution.

13 Friday m cloudy wind SW a day generally cloudy

14 Saturday m. fair, wind NW & cold air. A flash of snow fell; then fair & cold

15 Sunday m cloudy wind SW; last night very cold; day partly fair & the thermometer I am informed not over 3 degrees at any time of the day.

16 Monday m. cloudy, wind W the day cold & partly cloudy. with snow seen on the distant mountain

1849 Tuesday
April m. fair, wind W. and day
17 fair & mild air
18 Wednesday m. fair wind W
the day partly cloudy.
For two days past I have been unwell
from some derangement of my urinary
functions
19 Thursday. This m. a snow
storm from NE, the snow
about 4 inches in depth. PM
some rain fell. On the 19th of April
last year we had a similar snow
20 Friday m fair, wind SW, but
most of the day hazy. At night snow nearly
gone on the low grounds
21 Saturday m fair wind NW
and day fair & cool
22 Sunday m cloudy, wind N
and day hazy.
23 Monday m. fair, wind W.
afternoon cloudy
24 Tuesday m fair, wind W, day
fair
25 Wednesday m fair wind N
& day fair

April Thursday m. fair, wind NE
26 and day
 Letter from my son at Burlington
 of April 19th with 1st Vol. of Buck
 inhams Travels, and Lyell's
 Elements of Geology (by Mrs Sheldon)

27 Friday m cloudy, wind NE and
 day fair & cool

28 Saturday m cloudy with rain
 and wind N; day cloudy and
 cold, with some rain

29 Sunday m. fair, wind NW
 day fair & pleasant

30 Monday m. fair wind SW
 and day mostly fair.
 My young friend David S Hoyt
 set out on a tour to the western states
 this morn and I loaned to him my
 pocket compass, in a mahogany box
 He proposes to go to Illinois and De
 troit, to locate his Land warrant
 in that region, if he is pleased with
 it, and seems to prefer the South
 part of that state for his location

May Tuesday m hazy wind SW
1 day hazy & fair
2 Wednesday. m fair & cold, wind
 NE & NW cold day.

May Thursday m. fair, wind NE
 3 and cool. Latter part of the
 day cloudy. Up to this time we
 have had no warm weather
 4 Friday. m. cloudy & some distant
 thunder heard; wind SW. soon became
 fair, but mostly cloudy P.M. and
 air warmer than it has been.
 5 Saturday m. cloudy with
 rain & NE wind; the day
 My island friend C.O. Boutelle, his wife and
 little Charlie made me a visit. He is
 recently from Charleston, SC where
 he has been carrying on his trigono
 metrical operations, and to be em
 ployed this season, on the coast of
 main. He is all intelligence and
 brilliancy, and plays with intri
 cate problems with perfect ease
 He leaves this day for Cambridge to
 render his ingenious labor.
 6 Sunday m. cloudy, wind NE
 day cloudy & rainy & cool
 air. Vegetation of course holds back.
 7 Monday. M. cloudy, wind NE
 and the day continued cloudy and
 wind changed to SW. day cloudy
 8 Tuesday. m. cloudy & some rain' wind SW
 day cloudy with some rain & cold
 []

May 9th Wednesday m. cloudy & rain
with S.W. wind; the day cloudy throughout.

10 Thursday. m fair, wind SW followed by a fair day, but many clouds

11 Friday m. fair, wind N.E. after noon cloudy

12 Saturday m. fair, wind NE the day fair. Very little or no appearance of vegetation in our trees nor have we had a real warm day this spring, the sun being generally shrouded by clouds or thick vapor.

13 Sunday m. cloudy, wind and day cloudy & wind NE & S. and SW and rain fell

14 Monday m. fair wind NW PM cloudy & cold

15 Tuesday m broken clouds Wind NW the latter part of the day cloudy. Our fruit trees show no blossoms

16 Wednesday m. fair, wind NE cloudy most of the day and air cool

17 Thursday m fair wind NE & cold air: the day cloudy PM or frequently so

May Friday m. fair, wind NE
18 day fair & clear at night
19 Saturday m fair, wind West
and a fair day.
A caravan of horse, camels, elephant
ponies, ornamental carriages &c.
past our vally in the morning, for
exhibition at Greenfield, where various
feats are to be performed, [] of an
[]. From its novelty no
doubt many will pay their 25 cents
to gratify their curiosity; for myself
I have no desire to witness the per
formances, since I am fully gratified
by investigating the wonderful laws
of nature which everywhere surround
us, and never cease to instruct.

20 Sunday m fair, wind SW
and day fair but hazy.
Last evening I heard of the death
of Richard E Newcomb of Greenfield,
our judge of Probate, on Monday last
on his 79th year. It is singular
that 4 days should have passed
without my hearing of his decease
Fruit trees begin to show blos
soms—very late in the Season
[] has been cold.

May
21
22 Monday m fair, wind W
the day arguably warm, but
hazy or cloudy towards night
Tuesday m. cloudy, wind N
changed to SW and the day partially
fair. Our first trees now present
a pleasing aspect on their floral ap-
pearance, and the maples a consider-
able foliage. Though very late we
may have a fruitful season.

23 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind S.W.
and the air summer like. I dis-
pence with fire in my sitting room
for the first time this season
PM Generally fair & wind NW
Some distant thunder heard.

24 Thursday m cloudy, wind NE
and the day the same, and a fire
in my room necessary.
Twenty five day have elapsed since
my connexion, David S Hoyt, left
us for the state of Illinois where
he proposed to locate his land war-
rant of 160 acres. To make a judicious
choice of location may be a work
of sometime By a newspaper []
[] at Chicago of the instant
we learn he arrived at that place

May 24 From Chicago he will probably proceed southerly to explore the state bordering on the Ohio, which he seemed to prefer to the north on account of the climate: my best wishes attend him wherever he may go; and his success & prosperity will add to my own~

25 Friday m cloudy with rain and NE wind, and the day continued cloudy throughout and the air cool of course. The frequency of cloudy weather, this season, will account for its lateness. From the 1st of May up to the present time we have not had more than one or two day, that can be called warm. The present season is much behind that of lets say, 10 or 20 days. Is our climate becoming colder? Many facts indicating this may be addressed; and I am [] to the affirmative side of the question

26 Saturday m. fair & cool N. wind. PM. hazy and day cool

27 Sunday m fair; wind SW; PM cloudy: air moderate

May
28

Monday m. fair, wind SE
and day cloudy PM as usual [] []
President Hitchcock, made me
a short call, on the morn. He
has been lecturing on Geology at the
Smithsonian Institution at Washington
and thinks the Institution will be use
ful to the science of the country. He
promised to favor me with a
perusal of Squires & Davidsons Book
on the antiquarities of the west which
is in the College Library. He says
he found many men of success at
Washington City.

29

Tuesday m cloudy, wind NE
throughout. Very few day of
clear sky have occurred since
the Spring seas commenced. If the sky
is clear in the morning, It is covered
afternoon with a sort of dense
fog which shuts out the sun
and of course the air remains
cool. My farmer Austin []
who visited my wood lot, at
the head of Stillwater on
Deerfield River this day, saw
a mass of ice on the north
bank of the river, near my
SE angle of several feet in thickness

May Wednesday m cloudy
30 with N.E. wind & rain,
 the day continued cloudy
 & rainy, The continuance of cloudy
 weather is remarkable, and
 not easily explained on known
 principles. That there has been
 changes in atmospheric phenomena
 with 50 or 60 years, seems to me
 to admit of no doubt; and whe
 ther these changes are owing to the
 clearing of the country of its
 woods, is a question not easily
 solved.

31 Thursday m cloudy, wind NE
 and some thunder heard
 The day mostly cloudy. Sun out before
Rail Roads. We learn that the En
gineers on the Burlington, Rutland
& Bellows falls road are laying the
rails on the road; Whether the grad
ing over mount Holly is com
pleted I am not informed. An
engineer (Edwards) is now making
a definite survey from Greenfield vil
lage through the western part of
our town, to Deerfield river, and
thence up the river to Shelburne
falls, and the contemplated Troy
route. What route will be taken
from the falls is doubtful; the
 boring

May 31 boring of a tunnel through Hoosac mountain, between Florida and Adams, is an idle attempt.
We learn that the Norfold County Rail road has failed, & resigned all its effects to its creditors. The road leads from Dedham to Backsone about 26 miles, and is said to have cost about 900,000 dollars, 400,000 of which only was taken up. The company it is said had paid 21 per cent interest to sustain the road This is a specimen of the fate of all short routes, not leading directly to great trading marts. In their zeal for rail roads, the people of the country have lost sight of the fact, that none but the great arteries of trade can be supported. A few years, I think, will correct the error.

June 1 Friday m fair wind SW
PM became cloudy & wind NE
2 Saturday n fair, wind SW
the day nearly fair, cloudy at close
Mr William Thaddius Harris
of Cambridge writes me, requesting
a Vol. of my Antiquarian researches
I am not able to furnish him
a copy, but have directed []
Williams

June Williams, to whom Mr Harris
2 has interested the business, where
 he may probably find the work
 Mr Harris speaks well of the
 work. I regret that it is so
 full of press errors, and that I
 have not been able to give it a
 second edition on which these er
 rors might be sponged, & some false
 topography corrected. Any compli
 mentary expressions from Gentlemen
 residing in the atmosphere Cam
 bridge College was unlooked for,
 on which classical knowledge is
 more relied on than natural phi
 losophy and none are deemed learn
 ed but adopts in the dead lan
 gauges of Greece & Rome. []
 source of poetry and imagination
 but not of pure science.
 "To me be nation's volume, broad displayed
 And to peruse its all interesting page
 My sole delight"
 By stepping out of the path,
 we become bewildered and lose
 sight of the main object: Viz the
 system of nature.
3 Sunday m. fair wind SW
 but most of the day cloudy &
 thunder at night.

June
4

Monday m. cloudy wind SW
and air partaking of
summer temperature; the
day fair until afternoon
and at 4 o'clock became
[] over the sky, attend
with rain & thunder. The
shower was of short duration
and the sun appeared again
and the air was calm &
not a leaf was seen to stir.
This sudden spread of clouds over
the sky and the shower may
be explained as follows: the SW
wind having been [] had brought
warm southern vapor & meeting
a colder region, in the north
was suddenly condensed, formed
the cloud over the sky, & fell
in rain. Espy's theory seems
in applicable to the case.
About 6 o'clock the wind
again prevailed from SW, but
with less force. Had a north
erly or a westerly wind prevailed
probably the shower would not
have occurred.

5

Tuesday m. fair wind NE
air cool & soon changed to NW

June The wind being NW
 5 & brisk, the day was fair and
 cool~ By the last accounts
 Europ appears to be far
 from a settled state, and in
 fact there is strong indications
 of a general war. What will be
 the result time alone can determine
 We have flattered ourselves that
 the world was improving, and
 that wars were about to cease,
 but probably future history
 will present as many dark pa
 sages as that of olden times.
 Shall we say, therefore, that the
 civilized nations of Europe,
 with all their improvements
 in arts, science, literature, and
 claims to a pure religion.
 have a little, or no, advances to
 words the condition anticipated
 by our []
 6 Wednesday m. fair wind variates
 from SW to NW day fair &
 pleasant. Took a ride to Mr
 A Rice's on the bank of the Con
 ride } necticut & their home by Cheap
 side. The lands on the river ap
 pear under good cultivation, and
 the buildings pleasantly situated.
 and the people hospitable At

June

6

Con
necti
cut
river
farm

at what time the settlement commenced on the vast bank the river I am not certain but probably after the old French war of 1744. Say about 1750 Prior to 1748, the settlers would have been exposed to Indian depredations at the commencement of the revolutionary war, in 1775 there were farms on the river; that of Levi Newton now Rice's had an orchard of thirty apple trees, one of which, it is said, produced apples sufficient for 6 or 7 barrels of cider, Orchard now extinct.

7

Visit
of old
friends

Thursday m fair, wind NW and day fair, but cool Two antiquarians from Northfield Rev. Mr Mason & Mr Isaac Mattoon called on me. Mr Mason appears to be feeble, but Mr Mattoon active, both are rather short of my age. and full of anecdote. The meeting was cordial & pleasant. Mr Mason say his sight is so impaired that he cannot read at all. What a misfortune to an enquiring mind.

8

Friday m. cloudy & rainy wind NE, and; the day the same, until night, when the sun [] Rail roads [] capital ists have refused to [] to

June 8
Rail road }
to the stocks of these roads the plan of raising money by borrowing on Bond is adopted, and future roads are to be constructed by loaned money at 6 percent The road from Grouts to Green field I am informed is thus to be completed with all expedition including two expensive bridges over Connecticut and Deerfield rivers. Whether this road will afford a profit sufficient to pay the interest & cost of maintaining it, is doubtful. If the road terminates at Greenfield it cannot command very extensive business; for the country north of Bernardston will find channels of trade to Boston by the Northfield & Keene routes. But the contemplated road from Greenfield to Troy & Schenectady is to turn off a vast trade from the Boston and Albany road. On the Troy route nature has interposed an insurmountable barrier, Hoosac mountain, and the impossibility of a practicable tunnels of 4 or five miles is seen by all who are acquainted with the nature of such a work, [] zeal may for a time continue the delusion, but this will at length cool & cease to amuse its advocates

June

8

Rail

Roads }

In the New-York trade a
Road may be continued from Brat
tleborogh up the river to Bellows falls
but so long as Boston continues
the great mart of trade for New
England, the trade in that direction
will be comparatively small.

A rail road is now projected
from Rutland in Vermont to White
hall at the head of Lake Champlain
which will command the New
York haste from the western part
of Vermont, and will lesson the
trade from Rutland to Bellows
falls. In short the multiplication
of rail-roads, may prove ruin
ous to these []. At any rate
none but the great arteries of trade
will find support and the con
struction of rail roads for the
accommodation of a few towns in
the interior is a farce, without
claims even to amusement.

The introduction of Rail roads
has created in the people, an enthusi
asm which overlooks their cost
and millions of dollars are now
considered but a small small sum

In England after the completion
of a few of these principle ways
this enthusiasm was raised to a
high degree, and Parliament was
inundated with petitioners for charters
from all parts of the nation; and
in 1839 the number declined in Great
Britain & Ireland was 107 and

June the capitol they were allowed
8 to raise by shares, was £41,610,814;
 they were besides allowed to raise
 by loan £16,177,630. A consider
 able number of these being crude
 speculations, have now commenced
 and the rail ways actually begin
 to be prepared or finished, at the
 beginning of 1840 in the United
 kingdom was only about 50.
 An immense number of companies
 were formed, and routes survey
 to every part of the kingdom But
 it soon became apparent that more
 capital would be required to com
 plete the roads, than could probably
 be raised for the purpose; and that
 the amount of travelling required to en
 able the companies to pay their
 current expenses, and the interest
 on the capital invested were greater
 than could be realized; and that the
 consequences would be a failure of
 most of the projects, and a dead loss;
 a general explosion of the schemes
 took place, with the ruin of the large
 stock holders. For further particulars
 see Chambers, "Information for the
 People," pages 143 & 144. Vol. 1
9 Saturday m. fair, wind NE with
 cold air and lazy sky through
 the day. Not a hot day has
 occurred this season. Yesterday
 2 cows were destroyed on the

June
9
Rail
road
acci
dent

rail-road, east of our street
by the rail road train The
cows had strayed from Bloody
Brook & followed the road. I
am not certain that in such
accidents, there is not some
carelessness on the part of the con
ducters. Accidents of this kind
are too frequent. All crossing
of rail roads I consider as danger
ous, and that leading to our
cemetary peculiarly so. A fatal
distraction of life may occur at
that place. A rail road across
a farm I consider an unfortun
ate circumstance, since the ut
most care will not ensure safe
ty. A heavy body moving over
a space of 20 miles per hour can
not be harmless; and what
parent, having a family of children
residing near a rail road, can feel
at ease? or unconcerned for his
little ones?

10

Sunday m clody & rain wind N
rain and day wholly cloudy
& cold and a fire necessary in
my room, as has been the case
since spring commenced, excepting
two or three days.

11

Monday m. fair wind NE
day fair but sky hazy; wind
changed to South

Re
marks

June 12 Tuesday m. fair, wind NE
and the sky covered with its
usual haze. Wrote a letter to
son Arthur at Burlington con-
taining remarks on rail roads
unfavorable to their mulitiplica-
tion beyond the demands of trade,
which is evidently the case, with
some now projected.

13 Wednesday m. fair, wind S.E.
PM became cloudy with cool air
and wind S & SW. Seldom a
day passes without clouds, or a
thick spread haze, over the sky, which
keeps the sun's rays from the ground,
and hence the cool season. We
have experienced during the season.
If atmosphere phenomena has not
varied, essentially, since I was young,
then I am under a mistake. In
our thunder showers there is little
similarity, and the change is ve-
ry shocking; electricity seems to
have become, in a degree, tranquil,
and very little therefore has oc-
curred for several years past.

14 Thursday m. fair, wind SW
day hazy Rode to Bloody
Brook Cool air for season.

June
15

Friday M. cloudy wind
 SW and the air warmer
 than usual this season with S wind
 PM The Cholera is making progress
 to the north In New-York are
 many cases, a few at Albany & Troy
 and three or four at Boston. The
 disease is probably atmospheric
 but of the peculiar state of the air
 we know nothing for certainty.
 That the atmosphere should va
 ry its proportion of oxygen & []
 at different times, seems not
 improbable; and it is supposed
 that if the former ever reduced
 much below its usual proportion
 sickness would be [] general.
 By what process of the Grand Labor
 tory of nature, this proportion is kept
 up; we know not; but like other
 fixed provisions of nature, we must
 attribute it to superior power.
 "To thee whose temple is all space
 Whose alter, earth Sea, skys
 One chorus let all beings raise
 all nature's incense rise!"²¹

16

Saturday m. cloudy, some rain
 wind SW the day (PM) fair wind NW
 David S. Hoyt's parents have
 received a letter from him dated
 at Chester in the County of Randolph

²¹ Alexander Pope, *Universal Prayer*

June

16

D.S.

Hoyts

loca

tion }

Illinois dated June 1849.
where he has located his land
warrant on a tract some distance
from the village It has been par-
tially cleared, lies some distance
from the Mississippi, which it
overlooks from an elevation. The
selection I think a good one, un-
less it is too far south, being near
the mouth of Kaskaskia river.
He says he met the Cholera at
Chicago and passed through it
until he reached St. Louis on the
eve of the Great Fever at that place.
He thinks his location a healthy
one and where the cholera will
not prevail. The position is 35
or 40 miles above the mouth of the
Ohio, but not prairie but still
very fertile: the Latitude about
 $37^{\circ}..30'$ N., or about west of Richmond
in Virginia. A latitude perhaps
as favorable to health as ours.
though probably more liable
to fevers and bilious diseases.
I recommend a more northerly climate
but he had an aversion to winter
climates. His tract contains 160 acres,
or a quarter section, bounded by lines
of Latitude & meridians. An excellent
method of laying out lands, more a
dopted by the United States gov-
ernment.
A farm of this extent, with in-
dustry, economy, and good health
cannot fail to render its possession
independent; & happy if of a

June well informed and duly regu
10 lated mind, happy.
No state in the Union embraces
so much fertile sort as Illinois;
but at present the climate is rather
unfavorable to health, and probably
will so continue until it cleared
and cultivated to a considerable
extent, and its miasma reduced
when the air will become sa
[]; but years will elapse
before this will take place.
This unhealthiness of the Country
is a check to emigration from the North
ern states; And [] is the pub
lic debt of the State, which will for
some time render [] tax offen
sive, and ought not to have been in
curred by a young state.

17 Sunday m fair, wind N.E.
And day generally clear from
haziness. At sun set the
haze appeared, and the air
became cool.

18 Monday m. fair, wind
SW, and NW sky pretty clear
during the day.

19 Tuesday m fair, wind SW
and day fair but scattering clouds
Dr Hitchcock, President of Am
hers College, sends me Squires and
Davis Ancient monuments of the Missis
sippi Valley. 1 Vol. 4 to. for perusal.
The

June The work is published by the
19 Smithsonian Institute as its
 1st Vol of Contribution to
 Knowledge and contains
numerous plates & wood cuts
This work will afford abund-
ant proof, that a race of men
once dwelt in our western coun-
try far advanced, in Arts, to the
race of Indians, that were found
on the first discovery of Ameri-
ca. But granting this, nothing
has yet been discovered of their
works which places them so
high in the arts as the Aztecs of
Mexico at the period of Cortes con-
quest. The work of Messers Squires
& Davis, probably will furnish the
most light on the history, we can ob-
tain: it is interesting & valuable
and evinces much research, and
is a happy selection for the first vol
of the "Smithsonian Contribution to
Knowledge"

20 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind W.
 but soon fair, the day fair
 with summer air & cumulous clouds.
The Sun has reached it greatest north
declination (23° , $27'$) & sets $7^{\text{h}}..38^{\text{m}}$ in our Lat
 Busy in looking over Squires & Davis
book. One fort they state new to me
It appears that the ancient people of the
west made use of copper instruments
such as axes chisel &c. which are
found in the mounds. As well

June
20

those of stones the metal they
suppos was procured in the vicini
ty of Lake Superior, and hardened
by hammering, and was a pretty
good substitute for iron, which it
pears was not in use by them
The mounds, fortifications &c found
in the United States are more
numerous than I had supposed and
on no part were they so abundant
as in the State of Ohio The vallies
of Scioto and Miami exhibit the
greatest number The work of these
gentlemen may rouse an extensive
spirit of inquiry, and other
antiquities may be brought to light
in our western regions.

21

Thursday m. fair, wind N.
and of proper summer day
A few shad were taken yesterday, in
the Connecticut at Montague. But
the fishing on the river, above South Ha
ley is of little worth

22

Friday m. fair, wind NW
& changeable to SW & SE, Sky
hazy and air hot. The change
from cool to hot weather is sudden
and unfavorable to laborers who
are not cautious in their exertions
Some of the Irish laborers at the

New

June
22

New City we learn, have died with
heat. Will not this sudden
change promote cholera?~

The work of Squires & Davis on
the ancient monuments of the Missis-
sippi Valley engages my attention.
The works have heretofore been sup-
posed to be military defences but
they say but a part are of this
character while others were
connected with the superstitions
of the builders, or designed for other
purposes not readily apparent.

See page 8th. See also Chap.
3, page 47. This division of the
work appears to me to be appropriate
and necessary in studying them.
Both however must have acquired
considerate art as well as a nu-
merous population for their con-
struction. Nothing certain can be
determined as to the period of their con-
struction, and it maybe a thousand
or two thousand years ago.—per-
haps a more remote period. The
subject is highly interesting and the
two gentlemen who have furnished the
Vol. deserve the thanks of men of
enlarged views in [] of general
knowledge.
To the English reader it is gratifying to
connect with a work in his ver-
nacular tongue, which he may
recall and comprehend. Contrary
to

June
22

to the practice and pedantic taste
of the purely Literary men of the
present day. Messrs Squires & Davis
have given us a work, divested of
the Babel confusion of uncouth terms
culled from the Greek & Latin languag
es, so fashionable at this time, which
obfuscates instead of rendering, clear
the subjects treated of, as is
seen in many of the modern
works on natural history—which
little more than mere collection of
unintelligible technology.

23

Saturday m. fair, wind SW. W
day fair, hot, but less so after
sun set.

24

Sunday. m fair, wind NE &
changed to SW. PM cloudy;
and night some rain fell;
the air moderately warm.

Thermometer is said to have
been up to 95 degrees during
the few hot days past

25

Monday m fair, wind West
the day fair & pretty hot. Air
Farmers commence haying.

26

Tuesday. m. fair, wind S.W.
day fine & pleasantly warm

27

Wednesday m. fair, wind NE
and the day fair
The number of ancient works noted
by Squiers and Davis is truly sur
prising

June
27

prising. They say "not for 53 from 100 enclosures of various sizes, and 500 mounds, are found in Ross County, Ohio. The number of tumuli in the State may be safely estimated at ten thousand and the number of enclosures at 1000 or 1500. Many of them are small, but cannot be omitted in an enumeration. They are scarcely less numerous on the Kanhawwa in Virginia, than on the Scioto & Miamis; and are abundant on the White river & Wabash, as also upon the Kentucky, Cumberland, Tennessee, and the numerous other tributaries of the Ohio and Mississippi.

Nor is their magnitude less a matter of remark than their great number. Lines of the embankments, varying in height from 5 to 30 feet, and enclosing areas from one to fifty acres, are common; while enclosures of 100 or 200 acres area are far from infrequent. Occasional works are found in closing as many as four hundred acres, See page 4th & 5th

Until the two gentlemen wrote their work no systematic accounts were before the public, which might be considered full & satisfactory. We

now

June
27

now possess a standard work in which we may rely with confidence, and the Smithsonian Institution could not have commenced its "Contributions to Knowledge" with one more interesting in relation to the history of our western country.

The annual income of Mr Smithson's bequest is estimated at thirty thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, one half to be appropriated to research and publications in a series of Vol. under the title of "Smithsonian Contributions of Knowledge" the other half to the gradual formation of a Library, Museum, and a Gallery of Arts.

It is proposed also to publish occasionally separate treatises on subjects of general interest.

The plan appears favorable to the diffusion of knowledge; and it is hoped the Society will be moderate in its appropriation for the requisite buildings, and avoid the extravagant expense now so common in building of this kind. Let them be convenient & durable and their ornaments found in the healthy operation of the society.

June 27 Under the generous donation of Mr Smithson the Society can not fail of usefulness if the members are lovers of science and pursue it with commendable zeal.
The following officers of the General Government are members Ex Officio.
The President of the U States, Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War
Secretary of the Navy, Post Master General
Attorney General, Chief Justice
Commissioner of patents, Mayor of the City of Washington.
The Board of Regents consists of three members, ex officio, of the establishment. Viz. Vice President of the U States the Chief Justice of the U.S. and the Mayor of Washington, together with 12 other members, three from the Senate, three from the House of Representatives, and six citizens appointed by a joint resolution of both houses.
At the time of the first publication 110 primary members, had been elected.

28 Thursday m. cloudy, some rain, and wind NE; the day continued cloudy and the air cool

June
28

In the work of Squires and Davis we find no certain data for determining the age of the forts and mounds described but sufficient is seen to prove them very old.

Fort Hill plate 5 at page 14, they say has an area of not far from 50 acres, and is covered with a heavy primitive forest of gigantic trees. One of those a Chesnut standing on the embankment, measures 21 feet in circumference; another an oak which stood on the wall though now fallen and much decayed still measures 23 feet in circumference. All around are scattered the trunks of numerous trees in every stage of decay; the interior forest presenting an appearance of the highest antiquity. Actual observation showed the existence of not less than 200 annual rings, or layers, to the foot, in the large Chesnut mentioned, now standing upon the entrenchments These would give nearly 600 years as the age of the tree. If to this we add the probable period intervening from the time of the building of the work to its abundance

June
28

and the subsequent period up to the time of its invasion by the forest, we are led irresistably to the conclusion, that it has an antiquity of at least one thousand years. But when we notice all around us the crumbling trunks of trees half hidden in the accumulating soil we are induced to fix upon an antiquity more remote."

One fact I think is established namely: that a numerous people one inhabited our western regions, who were far advanced in arts to the Indians known to Europeans since the discovery of America by Columbus. the cause of whose decline can only be conjectured. But in all the discoveries made, no stone or other permanent edifices have been found as in Mexico and Guatemala. If they resided in clustered towns the edifices would have been constructed of wood or other perishable materials.

In some of the [] works stones were used in the embankments but none shewing marks of the chisel; and of the structure was composed of timber, which has perished, leaving no traces of its existence.

June 28 In the construction of some of the works, vast labor must have been bestowed, as well as considerable skill, embracing some of the principles of geometry, as in tracing large circles, squares, parallelograms, and regular polygons on the ground. But whatever skill be granted to the mound builders, no unequivocal indications are found to show that they possessed the art, even of pictographic writing

29 Friday m cloudy with rain & NE wind
PM partially fair clear day at night.

30 Saturday m cloudy wind SW; most of the day fair and cool

July 1 Sunday m. cloudy soon fair, & wind NE, the day fair with cool air, rendering a room fire necessary for comfort.

2 Monday m fair, wind NE & cold. The day was hazy & cool as has generally been the case this season, & without the occurring and real thunder shower.

July
2

A New-York City paper of the 28th ult. says
“The Boston & Worcester Rail Road Company have declared a sum annual dividend of three per cent. The dividends of nearly all the New England rail-roads are falling off, and this kind of property is rapidly depreciating in all parts of the country. The time is not far distant when rail roads will be considered the poorest investments in the market. The Worcester rail road used to be a regular 8 per cent stock; but the capitol has increased so rapidly, that its dividends have become reduced to 6 percent. Competition, extravagance, and the employment of the property of stock holders for private purposes, will soon bankrupt many companies which are now solvent.”
The New-York & Erie rail road, it says “cannot raise the sums to continue much longer. A suspension is the only thing that will save it from irretrievable bankruptcy.”
This is rather a repulsive picture, and whether the writer has assigned the true cause of the sickly aspect is doubtful. I should attribute it to the multiplication of the roads, beyond the demand, of trade and travel.

July
2

That some of the roads recently completed will sicken and die from want of support is evident, while others projected will never be commenced is as certain. The above writer evinces that that New York and Erie rail roads, will prove as great a bubble as did those of the Reading rail road stock previous to the grand smash of that concern. The truth is, rail roads in the northern states have come to a crisis, and but a very few more will be constructed; and the people will learn that the cultivation of their farms, with [], is their true interests How idle then, to talk of a rail road from Greenfield to Troy through Hoosac mountain on border capital! I am not unfriendly to rail roads, but I would restrict him to the great arteries of trade instead of the accommodation of a few interior towns when available money would not construct a sixth part of the road through them.

In short a rail road through a mere agricultural town is of little advantage to the farmers, and in some cases is a nuisance anywhere they divide farms, creating dangerous crossings from which accidents are almost constantly occurring

July Tuesday m. fair, wind NW
3 & cool air the day partially
 fair, and rather cool
 Our farmers are busy at haying
 but the weather rather unfavora
 ble.

4 Wednesday. m cloudy, but son
 fair, wind N. and the day was
 generally fair & cool
 A celebration of the day is to be held
 at Northampton in which fire
 works are to be exhibited in the
 evening. Their celebrations are now
 of little or no use: in general they
 are designed to promote a spirit
 of political parties without a []
 of the public welfare. Innkeepers,
 traders and stage & rail road companies,
 may feel an interest in them, but
 the farmer is better employed in per
 suing his usual business at home;
 and in no way can he show his
 love of liberty as by his industry
 and economy.

We learn that the stockholders of the Vermont
Massachusetts Railroad have voted
to issue Bonds sufficient to pay the
debts of the corporation, and to build
the road into Greenfield, and Montague
the road to the bond holders for low security
The amount of bonds issued to be about
one million dollars and to run six years.
This is a new mode of building these
roads, and the public will judg of its success.

July
5

Thursday m. cloudy, wind NE
 and a cloudy day & cool
 For several past days I have found
 a fire necessary in my room, and
 the remarkable haziness of the upper
 atmosphere generally continues.
 without the appearance of a
 thunder cloud. Does not this
 hazy state of the atmosphere keep elec-
 tricity in a repose as in a damp
 room where an electrical machine work
 but partly or not at all, from a
 want of insulation? At this sea-
 son, when the atmosphere is clear, []
 [] a brisk southerly wind prevails
 we may look for thunder showers
 But in a reverse condition of the
 atmosphere, they rarely occur.

6

Friday. m. fair, wind SW.
 the day fair but scattering clouds
 Mr Fulton our Collector, presents
 taxes for the year
 Viz Son Arthur \$1485
 My own 4.88
 Total 19.73

7

Saturday m fair, wind SW
 but became cloudy PM
 In noticing the weather I use the term
 cloudy when perhaps the term haze
 would be more appropriate. It often

Tax}
es }

July happens that cloudness consists
7 of a haziness spread over the heavens
 without a detached or insulated
 cloud appears, and none having
 the least aspect of what we form
 aly called thunder heads; attend
 ed with lighting and followed
 by violent falls of rain
8 Sunday m fair, wind N. the
 day fair, & [], & wind changed
 to SW.

The Cholera we learn is mak
ing fastest progress in some of
the large towns on the Mississippi
and Ohio, and also in New York
and Philadelphia & some other
places. In Boston but five cases
have occurred. Neither the cause
in the mode of cure is known
In Europe the disease is said to
prevail especially in England, Scotland & France
and most fatally in Paris. In
the United States New-Orleans, St
Louis, Cincinnati, and the City of
New York have thus far suffered
the greatest loss of people; but sev
ral small towns have lost many
The disease is said to have originat
ed in Hindustan near the Ganges about
20 years ago, & thence spread over over
the world. Whether it is produced

a

at will become a general calamity here after is not known and whether it will ever become subject to success for medical treatment we have yet to learn. But that means will continue mortal is evident.

July 8
9 Monday m. fair with morn clouds and wind N, and NE, the day became densely cloud at night with NE wind

10 Tuesday m. partially fair, wind SW; the day fair and warm yet a total absence of thunder showers

11 Wednesday m. cloudy wind SW, but the day became fair pretty hot for this summer and the sky hazy

12 Thursday m fair, wind SW and day hot and free from clouds, entirely so, but the sky hazy. We see notices of the collection at Saratoga Springs and of all the extravagances of the wild multitude. Several cases of the cholera have there occurred but this endeavored to be kept from the public, or in fact, denied as it would be ruinous to the boarding [] []

July Trips are occasionally made
12 to Lake George & notices of the
 old classic ground taken; but
 in general they are extremely in
 accurate, if not contrary to fact.
 A minute history of the
 military operations in the
 country between the village
 of Stillwater on the Hudson,
 and Crown point, on Lake
 Champlain, would fill a
 volume with interesting mat-
 ter, with which few seem
 to be acquainted at this day.

13 Friday m. fair, wind W &
 air hot. the day continued
 fair, clear & especially hot
 thermometer at 96 yesterday
 but no indication of thunder
 showers. During this electri-
 cal calm are we to suppose
 the electrical element is dimin-
 ished on an equilibrium is by
 some means maintained? as in a
 calm like whence every position is
 equally charged, as induced the con-
 tiguous country, if the land lie
 moist and of course a construction
 of electricity. Dry atmospheric air is
 a non conductor of electricity, hence bo-
 dies suspended in it may be charged plus
 or minus; but let this insulating property

July
13

cease and electrical phenomena
would also cease. And
what would be the consequences
of a complete equilibrium of the []
[] in all parts of earth and
the atmosphere we are unable to say.
Perhaps the [] [] in
the atmosphere used essential to the
health of animals residing on the sur-
face of the earth, and a proof of the
wisdom of Providence.

14

Saturday. m. cloudy (thick)
wind brisk at NE of course a cool
er air than the two past days
which were excessively hot, the
day partly fair and air pleasant.
A Letter from my friends at
Burlington which represents the place
rather sickly with the Old []
[], and a case or two of the
Asiatic supposed brought by the steam
boats, but disputed by the inhab-
itants of the place. But it will be
extraordinary if the place has no cases
of the fatal disease, since it is situated
on our extended fresh water lake &
on the direct communication below New
York & Montreal at both which the
disease prevails
In the war of 1812 this place proved
very unhealthy to our troops stationed
there

Letter
from
my
friends

July 15 Sunday m. fair, wind NW day fair & cold air. Indeed a fire in my room would be comfortable, why these sudden changes of temperature? while the sun's altitude remains nearly the same? Thursday & Friday were especially hot, & at 4 PM this day, I kindled a fire in my room. These changes of temperature indicate a descent of the upper part of the atmosphere from some course not at once evident. The wind in the afternoon changed to N.E. and the sky became hazy. The total absence of thunder showers must be obvious to all observers of meteorological phenomena.

16 Monday m. fair, wind NE: the day fair, but with the usual haziness and air cool.

Electricity & Cholera A letter is inserted in our papers, purporting to be from an ancient physician of Paris (Arodrand) to the French Academy of Sciences in relation this subject. The Doctor says he has an excellent electric machine, which has [] daily

July
16

daily in order to satisfy himself whether there is not a fixed connection between the intensity of that scourge ~~and~~ and the absence of the [] fluid usually diffused throughout the atmosphere. The letter is dated Paris, June 10th, and inscribed in the Boston Journal July 12th & N York Herald The writer, Dr Audrand, (see the letter []) says the machine which has been the object of my daily observation is a very powerful one; at ordinary times it throws off after two or three turns of the wheel [] sparks from two to two and a half inches in length. I at first observed that from the commencement of the [] it was impossible for me to produce this result once. During this of April & May the sparks obtained with great difficulty, never exceeded seven tenths of an inch, and their variations agreed very closely with the irregularities of the cholera. But believing it possible that the variable moisture of the atmosphere might have caused the irregularities of the marker the Dr writes the coming fine weather and heat to continue his observations with more certainty. Heat & fine weather at length came, and to his amusement the machine though often repaired to [] [] as it should in [] of electricity only gave more & more feeble indications of it, to such a degree, that during the days of the 4th 5th and 6th of June it was []

July
16

to obtain any thing more than slight cracklings without sparks and at length on the 7th, the machine remained entirely silent. This new decrease of the electrical field coincided perfectly with the violence of the cholera. For my part I felt appalled rather than surprised. my conviction was fixed, and I saw in it but the result of a clearly established fact. At length, on the morning of the 8th, feeble sparks appeared, their intensity increased from hour to hour, and I perceived with joy that the life giving fluid was returning into the atmospheric void. Towards evening a storm announced to Paris that electricity had reached its domains in my view, the cholera was vanishing with the cause that produces it. The next day the 9th my experiments were continued, and every thing had returned to its proper condition, the machine at the slightest touch threw out brilliant sparks with ease. Dr Audrand advances the following theory: Nature has imposed into the atmosphere a mass of electricity contributing to the service & support of life. If by any means the mass of electricity is diminished and sometimes decreased even to exhaustion what follows? Every one suffers—those who carry within a sufficient supply of electricity withstand it; those who can live only by borrowing electricity from the common mass, perish with the exhaustion of the mass.

Whether

July
16

Whether the Doctors experiments furnish a basis sufficient for a theory may be doubted; and with out knowledge of the electric fluid and its laws, it would be rash to attempt an explanation of its phenomena. The Dr. supposes also that not only the cholera, but perhaps other diseases that at intervals affect us are from the same cause. The [] not known seem to be accurate.

Absence of thunder storms which I have noticed for several past years & particularly the present. And whether this absence denotes a diminution of the electric element in the atmosphere, or only a quiescent state of it, from an alteration of the insulating power of the air, is a question To suppose that animal matter without insulation is differently [] ed is contrary to the Franklinian theory, or that which supposes two electric fluids to exist

17

Tuesday m. fair, but the sky hazy with SW wind. of moderate temperature, the day the same Canadian accounts indicate a disposition in the people to become an independent people or of uniting with us. Probably one or the other will ultimately take place. the power of Great Britain seems in the decline and her monstrous public debt must prove her ruin In the present condition of Europe the

July
17

the British provinces may separate from from the mother country almost without a struggle. To maintain a war in America would endanger her own existence in Europe, and this she seems to be sensible. Divest of her debt she might continue a powerful nation for many years; but undo it, war effort must be paralyzed, and some future Gibb will write her downfall. But whether her fall will be a benefit to the world is a question not readily answered. Such a fall would produce a horrible gap in the arts and sciences, and much that is now valuable would be ameliorated.

France has assumed the name of a Republic, but she seems to possess but little of the elements of a free government; and her government to sustained by a large military force The other nations of Europe are tottering on their old bases, and what will be the result we know not. The remaining scrap of old- Rome strikes for liberty, but even the free government of France opposes it. Can a greater anomaly be presented? That hostility of Austria & Russia is perfectly consistent with the principles of their governments but France cannot mount a plausible plea for her course

July
18

Wednesday m fair, wind SW
 the day fair & sky hazy.
Bad paper, bad ink, bad pens,
and my impaired sight, almost in-
 duce me to suspend my journal
 and remarks; but as I find no
 substitute amusement in my lonely hours, ex-
 cept in reading, which is not with-
 out difficulty, I shall continue
 my scribbling bad as it is, but
 I would not impose on no one, the
 task of perusing the []~

On consulting the map of the U.
 States, it appears that the cholera
 is most prevalent along the large
 sluggish river & lakes in the interior of the
 country, while on the sea coast
 it is found of less extent, with
 the exception of the City of New-York.

On the coast of the southern States
 and among the West-India Islands
 we hear little of it, thus far.

New-York is situated on a large
 flat river, and has a great population
 and the like is the case with Phila-
 delphia. Is not then, the saline
 property of the ocean a preventative
 to the disease?

Boston, as yet, has had but a few
 cases and it has but a small
 river contiguous. If population
 were the sole cause of the disease
 it would be difficult to account
 for its exemption from the disease.

In Europe I believe the disease
 prevails

July
18

prevails mostly in the interior of the countries, as in Paris, and we may look for it in London and other large cities, at a distance from the sea coast.

In some of our western states contiguous to the Mississippi, Ohio and their confluent waters, and also on the shores of the great Lakes, The disease is prevalent, A low Latitude seems not to necessary for its production, for we hear nothing of it in southern Mexico, or the West Indies.

Whether these considerations afford a basis on which to found a theory of cholera I know not. but I am inclined to believe they afford a clue at best.

Should it prove a fact that the country contiguous to our great western rivers & lakes, are liable to this destructive disease, it will be a great misfortune, and a bar to the settlement of populous cities in that region, now so eagerly sought.

A more particular history of the progress of the disease is necessary, before we can arrive at a theory of the disease. Two facts however, seem to be established.

1st That places situated on the borders of large lakes and extended rivers, flowing through flat countries, even with a sparse population, are liable to the disease.

2nd That when these places are settled with a numerous population

July
18

they are sure of a visit of the disease in its periodical returns.

What may be the intervals of these periods we have yet to learn. But with our present knowledge of Atmospheric laws, we can see nothing which would assign long intervals to these periods, nor that they may not be come annual.

At the time of the cholera in 1832 and 1833 New-England generally escaped the malady; but whether it will be so favored at this return, time alone can determine. She has a large river, but of a character very different from those of our western country, as it abounds in falls and in rapid currents, still in its lower section its character is somewhat similar to the western rivers; and perhaps populous cities on its banks might be afflicted like New-York.

These conjectures may be considered as crude and hasty, but that they are not destitute of probability will appear from an inspection of a map of the United States, and an examination of the progress of the cholera, as given in our papers.

19

Thursday m. fair, wind SW
the sky hazy and the day fair throughout & pretty warm. Not a cloud indicating a shower to be seen. Certainly a singular state of the atmosphere if not unprecedented.

July 19 For several past days my friends have omitted their calls, and I am hardly able to keep par passe with the topics of the times. Have I become unsocial and uninteresting? If so, I hope they will bare with my imperfections, and infirmities, and at least accord me good intentions. Cut off as I am in some degree, from my resources in Books, I feel the want of enlightened conversation and social intercourse. Important subjects for conversation now present on all sides, and no patriot can feel indifferent to passing events, both political and philosophical.

20 Friday m. cloudy or hazy, wind SW but the sun soon out. day generally fair. Rode to Greenfield, performed some business, and took a view of the inhabitants of the village. New streets are laid out, many new buildings are seen and others constructing, and the population increasing; I found the roads very dry & dirty, & of course the ride rather unpleasant. though gratifying to my curiosity. The place bids fair to become one of considerable business & and population.

July
20

At Greenfield I received from
 the
 treasure (\$14.25) of a saving bank
 as a premium up to the 3d Wednesday
 of July, \$11.25 cents, []
 my deposit \$30, making \$41.25
 leaving \$420 in deposit. (420)
 The annual interest of which at 5 per
 cent is \$21.

It is pleasing to notice the ease and
 system with which Mr. Ripley, the Treas
 urer, performs the functions of his
 office. When such men are in place
 public confidence is strong & safe,
 and utopian schemes are ably
 estimated~

In the afternoon clouds appeared
 in the west indicating a shower
 and gave us some thunder but
 at sun set no rain had fallen

21

Saturday. m. partially fair
 wind SW, a sprinkling rain
 last night.

The clouds this day partake []
 of the stratus & nimbus aspects
 than for some time past when
 a hazy vapor prevailed; and
 during the afternoon they gave
 us a sprinkling of rain with
 some lightning—the clouds in
 overspreading on us.

22

Sunday m fair, wind SW, day
 fair & agreeable air; the sky almost
 free from clouds.

July Monday m. fair, wind N and
23 day fair & pretty hot. PM some
 detached clouds, but no showers oc-
 curred and the ground is very dry.
24 Tuesday m. fair wind NW
 but soon changed to SW and the day
 was fair, almost without a cloud
 but a hazyness of the sky still con-
 tinues, which seems to prevent the
 formation of cumulous clouds the
 precursors of thunder showers.
 not one of which of the old cha-
 racter has occurred in our village.
 this season, and so remarkable
 is this absence of thunder storms
 that I have noticed the fact for
 several years past. Young men
 are not aware of the change in
 the frequency & violence of old
 thunder storms, and when I de-
 scribe them I have often witnessed
 they think me dealing in romance.
 This absence of thunder storms, I
 think does not prove a dimu-
 nation of the quality of the electric
 fluid of the earth and atmosphere
 but only loss causes of the dis-
 turbance of its equilibrium. In hot
 moist air an electric machine oper-
 ates feebly, or not at all; not from
 the want of the fluid, but from the
 want of an insulating power in the
 air. As Dr Audbrand remarked,

July
24

A.

Elec
trical
theo
ries

Frank
lins

preceding pages of my journal.
 Different theories of Electricity
 have been advanced since
 our Franklin gave his to the world
 But after perusing these writings
 I must say that none appear
 so natural and satisfactory as
 that of this accurate observer
 of nature. If some of the pheno
 mena of electricity clash with his
 theory, so do they with others
 that have been advanced. The theory
 of two kinds of electricity, the vitreous
 and resinous, has alway ap
 peared to me anomalous, and
 far more defective than that of
 Franklin, which supposes a plus
 or minus, as in other words, a
 positive & negative state of the elec
 tric fluid. That his theory will
 explain all the phenomena of electric
 ity is not pretended; but in
 this respect it appears to approach
 as near as that of any other.

In July 1747 Franklin com
 municated his thoughts with some
 experiments, on electricity to Peter
 Collinson F.R.S. London, and con
 tinued to correspond with the Gentle
 man for several years after.

The letters of Franklin were Mr Col
 linson gave a collection of them to the
 European public under the title of
Experiments and observations on
Electricity made at Philadelphia in

America by Benjamin Franklin
Esq. and communicated in several
Letters to Mr Collinson Esqr of London
F.R.S. which passed through sever
al editions which were actively

- b. read in Europe and roused
the attention of electrical phi
losophers to the subject.

To the Preface to the work it is
he (with Franklin) exhibits to our
consideration, an invisible sub
tile matter [] through
all notice, in various propositions
equally un observed, and [] to
all those bodies to which it pa
rticularly achieves, are alike charged
with it, inoffensive.

He shows however, that if any
unequal distribution is by any
means brought about, if there
is a [] in one part
of space, a loss proportion []
ity or want in another, by the
near approach of a body capa
ble of conducting the []
part to the emptier space, it
becomes perhaps the most
formidable and irresistible agent
in the Universe."

What agency [] electricity
on animal life, and whether es
sential to its continuance we know
not. [] atmosphere air being a
conductor, we can conceive that va
pour suspended in it, may be unique
ly charged with the fluid; but
no known laws of electricity ena
ble us to account for a deviation
or vicinity in the earth & its water

July
25

H Col
mans
new
work

Wednesday m. partially cloudy
wind NW; the sky soon became clear
and the day fair, till late PM

European Life and Manners in 2
vols. by Henry Colman is adver
tised in the papers. From the
opportunity Mr Colman has had
of collecting matter for such a work
I think it may be interesting,
and I had anticipated a work
of this kind from his pen. The
price is not given.

Rail Roads The Central road up
white river to Montpelier we are informed
is so far completed that trains reach
that place from Boston; and the
rail road from Burlington via Rutland
and mount Holley to Bellows falls
is fast progressing. When the two
roads are completed, they will become
rival routes, and one will be pre
ferred to the other; the latter I am in
formed is the shortest to Boston. The
former was traversed by Parson Willi
ams & other Deerfield captives in 1704
and the latter by our scouts & cap
tives in the war of 1744. In 1759
a road was partially constructed from
Lake Champlain, and mount Holley
and down black river valley to Charles
ton on the Connecticut, & troops, and
military stores past on the route.
Excepting mount holley this is a
pretty level route, well known to
the Canada Indians who often
traversed it, on their expeditions.

July 25 Of the prosed rail road from Greenfield to Troy we hear little, other than that an engineer has been employed on selecting a location, embracing a tunnel through Hoosac moun
tain, a project perfectly utopian [—], and not to be entertained for a moment but by the wildest im
agination.

26 Thursday. m cloudy, wind SW and slight sprinkling of rain; the day generally cloudy. Sun out before night During the 24 hours ending June 23, at 12 M. 79 new cases of the cholera occurred and 38 deaths according to the report of the Mayors office, While the disease thus rages in the city of New-York, it is scarcely seen at Boston. The cause of this difference in the two places presents an important question to scientific physicians and natural philosophers. In seeking for the cause of the disease neither the latitude, temperature or even filthiness is to be relied on, though probably the latter may be in existing cause where the peculiar diathesis exists; for it presents on the Rio Grand, the Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, Wabash and on the borders of the great lakes; and also on the St. Lawrence in upper and lower Canada, as well as on the Hudson & Delaware all except at New-York, at a distance from the sea coast.

July
27

Friday. m. fair, wind NW, the day fair, but with its usual hazyness.
Cholera at N. York: Mayor office July 25th at 12 M. Cases reported 131 and 39 deaths as having occurred the last 24 hours. The disease made its appearance at Providence RI on the 20th instant since which 20 cases—14 deaths have been reported. Boston continues pretty free from the cholera: At Albany and West Troy it prevails to a considerable extent; and Troy, Lansingburgh and Waterford will probably undergo the calamity.

Short Tours. At this season it is common to see in our papers, sketches of short tours into the interior of the country by young men of independent circumstance; and I notice several written at Caldwell on Lake George and Old Ticonderoga. But in general the writers are so little acquainted with the old military operation in that section of country, that they pass over the sites of battles & skirmishes without knowing, they are on the grounds where their Grand Fathers bled & died in the

~~Book, seen a Review of it, or any printed notice whatever though I had been informed, by a friend, that such a work had, been published.~~

July
27

the defence of their country & their bones rest in obscurity. In the country extending from the village of Stillwater, on the Hudson, to Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, scarcely a mile can be found on which some thrilling event has occurred, either in the French war of 1755 or that of our Revolution. These sites should be preserved from oblivion. My acquaintance with many officers & soldiers who served the campaigns & their journals and letters written on the ground at the time, enable me to point out the sites with certainty, which I have done in several critical reconnaissances of the country much with old manuscript journals, letters & sketches of the actors of the scenes; in my hands The country from Glenns Falls village to Lake George presents nothing interesting to the young travelers, while the well informed antiquary of a military taste, will meet with old scenes of the most interesting character; and among others the ground where Baron Dieskau's French and Indians ambuscaded the detachment of 1200 men under Col. Ephraim Williams, on the 8th of September 1755. When I last visited it in 1740²², part of the ground was still covered with its native woods This place is about 3 miles south of Lake George and may be known by an elevation of the ground south of Rocky Brook about a third of a mile south

²² Probably 1840

July
27

of Bloody Pond. The action commenced on this elevated ground, and continued along the old road to General Johnsons camp at the south end of the Lake, where the general action took place, on the ground where the ruins of fort George are now seen. For details of these actions see my Antiquarian Researches, page 272 et seq. This affair was long known by the name of the Bloody Morning Scout, in which many people of the old County of Hampshire, in Massachusetts lost their dearest friends. Tourists at this time, should be informed that the present road from Bloody Pond to the lake, passing through a vally, is a recent one, some distance east of the old one, on which Williams defeated troops fought on the retreat. Other alterations have been made on the road from this battle ground to Glenns Falls.

A plain monument to mark the ground of this ambuscade, would be gratifying to the tourist.

28

Saturday m. fair, but hazy wind NW
PM sky clouded entirely, but clear before sun set excepting the usual haze

29

Sunday m. fair, wind SW; air moderately warm, and the day fair and pretty clear
The accounts of the Cholera still continue alarming in the middle & western states as well as in Canada; but it is said that it is on the decline at St Louis & Cincinnati.

July 29 In New England it has, as yet made but small progress, and Boston has had but a few cases. Some have occurred at Providence RI
 The ground here is very dry and in Vermont the drought is said to be severe and unprecedented.

30 Monday. m fair, wind SW, and day fair and clear & warm

31 Tuesday m fair, wind SW and warm air. The sky soon became shrouded with dense vapor and at noon we had some thunder and sprinkling of rain. To day continued overspread, but little rain fell.
 Dr. Charles D Meigs of Philadelphia has printed at his own expense a pamphlet of 68 pages on the Spasmodic Cholera and distributed among his brethren of his profession. It bears date July 10th 1849. The work covers much knowledge of the subject as well medical science, and I think deserves the attention of his medical brethren
 The [——] he says in the Cholera in its first stage and is then curable by proper treatment, and only in this stage

July
31

Dr Meigs recommends the following Anaesthetic Pills composed of Sulphate of morphine 5 grams Camphor 20 do Cajeput oil 10 drops Tragacanth & Extract of Genti a sufficient quantity Make the smallest possible mass and divide it into one hundred pills, to be kept in a 3 dracm phial well stopped, which may be carried in the fob or waistcoat pocket; the pills not much longer than a pins head Should I, he says, be suddenly seized with the violent pains of a cholera fit I should not hesitate to take from five to twenty of these pills & lying down on my bed should wait a few minutes to learn whether their anaesthetic power might suffice to quell the motor aesthesia—failing which I should bleed from my arm to incipient deliquium. Perhaps a patient treated thus might die with cholera, but I should consider the surety so great as to require no insurance.
Has the Doctor's practice in Philadelphia given him this confidence in his medicine? Instances of its success are omitted by him and we are left with the impression that it may be theoretical and lack the test of experience the only safe guard.

July
31
1849

As to the cause of the cholera says Dr Meigs, we know nothing positive. But we have reason to believe that Earth miasma may come up from great depths through the stratified crust of the globe. The crust spirals up the earth that we know of at Etna, at Vesuvius, at Hecla and others like them, are not reasonably to be esteemed the sole points of escape for imprisoned gasses and misasmas, into our genial air of the atmosphere. Doubt less therefore the atmosphere is often poisoned and rendered deleterious by imponderable and [] substances that escape through vast tracts of country, in every latitude and longitude. Those terrible earthquakes that shape a whole continent though unattended by volcanic eruptions are commonly followed by epidemic or endemic disorders, that ought rather to be attributed to Earth-miasmas that came forth during the convulsion, to mingle with the air. Every body is aware that in stories are recorded of dreadful pestilence the fore runners and premonitions of distant [] in the

July
31

the [] of the globe. While on the other hand, the convulsions of the earth have been preceded for irregular or less length of time, the eruption of devastating diseases.

The Doctor gives it as his opinion that the cholera is of tellurid origin, and says, that the wisdom of man is foolishness when it strives to [] it of its [] by means of [] and Cordons Sanitaris. He [] why should we look for the cause of cholera in ozone, in thermometry, in [] [], or in hygrometry? Where use it to [] of man or animals why to vegetable substances as above or in decomposition; or to electricity or the magnetic force. Is it clear that all possible station of the thermometer, the barometer and hygrometer, of the electrometer and the magnetic needle must have existed a thousand & a thousand times within the period of human record? without producing this cholera. The cause of cholera produces cholera—cholera alone From those are not the cause. By reasoning thus on a way exclusion we concur at a certainty not that is, that the cause is not on the [] of the [] nor in connected nature & whether of vegetable or animal tribes [] We are left therefore to only [] found it in the Earth []

July 31 To escape from its pestilent cloud is not possible; to defend one's life from is on the other hand fully possible It is reasonable to say so; since the vast the immune, majority of persons touched by it manifest its influence on the [] mass by premonitory symptoms that are not [] [] mistaken by the countless and the well informed: Doubtless 100,000 persons have been touched by it on our city during the present year.
Dr Meigs pamphlet contains much matter for consideration and it appears and is timely

August

1st Wednesday m fair,
wind N.E. and the day fair
and clear; the air moderate
and no indications of rain.
Our physician says he has seldom known a more healthy season within the circuit of his practice.
What a contrast this to the cholera regions of the middle & western states, and of the Canada.
Reports at the Mayor's office, New York City on the 31st ult. at noon (Monday last) give 189 new case of cholera and 81 deaths , in the last 24 hours

August
2

Thursday m fair, wind NE
and the day clear with
moderate air.

We learn that a Rail road from Brat
tleboro to Bellows-falls is under construction
but from what source the money is derived
we are not informed. When this link
is completed, a rail road from the upper
part of the Connecticut will be continuous
to the City of New York, and the boat nav
igation on the river, above our town
suspended, and perhaps little used []
But the expence of rail roads & their main
tainence is great, and to multiply them
beyond their demand, evidently absurd;
and we find most of the companies
who have constructed them deeply in
debt and paying large sums of interest
and when this shall swallow up
the profits, the stock will become
of no value. This may be the case
with some of the roads, now appare
ently solvent, while some others
now [] will prove abortions.
Well constructed rail-roads on long
lines, reaching great marts on the
sea coast, may find permanent sup
port; but short routes, with
few exceptions, must necessarily
find a want of support
and of course be abandoned as
worthless property: An outlay of 20
or 30 thousd. dollars per mile should
[] as cautious in secondary routes

August Friday m. fair, wind
 3 SW and the day
 In compliance with Recom
mendation of President Taylor
 and the Proclamation of our Gov
 ernor Briggs, this day was ob
 served as one of humiliation, fasting
 and prayer by our religious con
 gregations" to implore the almighty
 in his own good, to slay the destroy
 in hand which is now lifted up
 against us." For a people who
 profess to believe in a superior []
 providence a time of consideration
 & reflection is at all times prop
 er, and especially in times of
 general calamity. If the present
 malady is sent upon man
 for his errors than it behooves
 him to look to them and to cor
 rect his course, but if the dis
 ease has prevailed in all ages
 of the world, it would seem
 follow that it is the result of
 established laws by the creator,
 and for any thing we know
 for wise purposes, though far be
 yond our conceptions.
 On viewing the structure of the Universe
 we perceive abundant evidence of be
 nevolent design in the Creation; and
 if our, in some instance, perceive phy
sical evils we should be slave in
 imputing [] to the creator

O

August
3

"O thou Great Being, what thou cast
 Surpasses me to know;
 But sure am I, that known to thee
 Are all thy works below."²³
 Difficult as it is for us to reconcile
 the existence of what we call Physical evil, with the benevolence of the
 Creator, still we have abundant
 proofs that the latter has been the
 basis in the structure of the Uni
 verse. An enlightened part touching
 upon the subject enquires:
 "But errs not nature from this gracious end,
 From burning suns when livid death descend
 When earthquakes swallow, or when tempest sweep
 No, 'tis reply'd the first almighty cause
 acts not by partial, but by general laws."²⁴

The subject is involved in difficulties
 and perhaps beyond our comprehension.

4

Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W. PM
 clouds appeared, indicating a
 shower air warm. About
 sun set we had a gentle rain
 attend with light thunder.
 From the commencement of June
 up to this time a drought has pre
 vailed, and the crops have suffered
 severely, particularly grass, corn and
 potatoes, on sandy soils.

5

Sunday m. fair, wind NE and
 the day clear & warm.
 We learn by the places that a
 few case of cholera have occurred
 at Burlington Vt. From its position

²³ Robert Burns, *A Prayer, Under the Pressure of Violent Anguish*

²⁴ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

August
5

On a fresh water lake I
had looked for the disease
at that place, if not at others
bordering on the lake, where
the land partakes of the argil
laceous character, combined
with the calcarious, as is the case
on the Hudson and the country
north of that river to Montreal
and Quebec~

6

Monday m cloudy, wind SW
with a gentle fall of rain,
which continued a considerable
part of the day. How refreshing
to the parched earth & vegetation!
and even our animal spirits are
invigorated. During these protracted
droughts does the atmosphere con-
tain less aqueous vapor than in
rainy weather? At no time I
believe, there is a want of this vapor
in the atmosphere, but a want of
disturbing forces to produce con-
densations in different parts of the
atmosphere, such as variable
winds, and clouds differently
charged with electricity.

Mr Espy's theory of thunder
showers is not, I believe, destitute
of some foundation; his scheme
for producing showers is by dis-
turbing the uniform state of the
atmosphere by extended fires;
and to the frequency of these fires when
the southern part of Vermont was being
cleared of its woods. [] the fre-
quency of our NW thunder storms, which

August
6 occurred almost every day at this season, with incessant thunder and lightning, and heavy falls of rain swelling our river over its first bank and inundating the low lands adjacent.

7 Tuesday m. fair, wind N and the day clear & fine air. NW wind

Cholera at Greenbush opposite Albany. We learn that 45 cases & and 20 deatthes occurred at that place during the last month from that disease. But we hear no thing of it on Hudson above Troy. Nor at Saratoga Springs. Should this place escape the malady its reputation as a healthy station will be enhanced.

In England the disease is said to prevail at London, Liverpool Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth and along the whole of the South coast while Scotland is generally exempt from thisease: thus say the accounts by the latest arrival. It has been seen in Paris, but other places in France are not mentioned in the late accounts and we have little of it in the West Indi Islands. Perhaps we scratch in vain for the cause of a disease simultaneously so widely extended over the globe But when we see a certain city affected with the malady, and these in apparent scientific condition

August we implied [——] from it or nearly so [——] so
 7 as seen in New York & Boston; We
 [——] to the belief must believe that there
 is some difference between the
 two places, the one favorable
 and the other unfavorable to the
 disease; and this difference
 should be sought out with
 the greatest care as affording a
 clue to the cause of the disease.

8 Wednesday m. fair, wind NW.
 and the day fair & clear.
 This day paid Mr. Felton, our Col
 lector, taxes for 1849.
 Tax }
 es pd } Viz. Arthur's \$14.85 } Exclusive
 E. Hoyt 4.88 } of my Par
 total 19.73 } ish Tax: Paid
 and took receipts \$3.45 before.
 As civilization cannot be main
 tained without taxation we must
 pay our proportion without
 regret, if the taxation is not
 excessive or beyond the rules
 of economy.~
 New mode of publishing litteray
 works. The Author, or proprietor,
stereotypes a few vols. & sends speci
 mens out, by traveling agents who
 obtain subscribers for the work
 and the Books are subsequently
 favored by the agents. The method
 seems to be unobjectionable and fair
 and subscribers see and examine
 the work before the give their names

August
9

Thursday m. fair, but a thick haze covering the sky; wind SW PM: the sun's shrouded by sprinkling clouds, but only a sprinkling of rain fell the close of the day.

Rail
roads

A year ago yesterday I dined at D. Hoyts Inn, with the Trustees of Deerfield Academy after one of their stated meetings Among their topics the proposed Rail road from Greenfield to Troy came under discussion and I expressed by opinion that the prospect of a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles through Hoosac mountain if practicable, was visionary, and the whole road uncalled for by the public, since a successful rail road was then in operation from Springfield to Albany and thence to Buffalo. At that time the current of opinion here, seemed to be in favor of the Troy route, and the taste of driving a tunnel through Hoosac mountain was considered but a small obstacle, or one not fatal to the road. But in general I found the advocates of the road limited in their knowledge of the topography of the proposed route as well as ignorant of the principles of rail-road engineering.

The

August The construction of the rail
9 road from Springfield to Albany
over the elevated country be
tween the Connecticut & the Hud
son, had induced a belief that
the Troy route from Greenfield
was practicable, even with
a 4 or 5 mile tunnel through
the abrupt mass of Hoosac
mountain, forgetting that the
road from Worcester by Spring
field to the state line, in the
direction of Albany, was aided
by the credit of our state.
Another year having elapsed,
without one foot of the []
being made on the Troy route.
indicates, to say the least, a sick
ly diathesis, in the prospect from
which, as appears to me, it can
never recover.

The rail road projected from
Grouts corner to Greenfield presents
some indication of declining health
The Company is now attempting
to raise money on bonded stock
secured by mortgages on their road
and whether they will succeed in
this way, we have yet to learn.
So far as the public interest re
quires rail-roads, we wish them
success; but to multiply them
beyond this, is a gross error.

10 Friday m. cloudy with a
brisk fall of rain, & S. wind;
the day continued cloudy &
rainy & the wind variable
from S to N—the rain was
occasionally copious, or heavy
resembling

August 10 resembling those of 50 or 60 years ago, but unattended with lightning and thunder. The condition of the atmosphere at this time, must differ essentially from that of the long drought just past. For some curious observations and suppositions in relation to the formation of thunder gusts see Dr. Franklin's 4th Letter to Peter Collinson of London (July 1750) pages 36 & 51 of the printed series.

11 Saturday m. cloudy, wind and day generally cloudy & some rain fallen. About a dozen fatal cases of cholera have occurred among the Irish laborers at the [] at South Hadley falls. At Boston the disease is said to be on the increase though not rapidly and [] ly compared to [] [] at New-York the disease continues its destruction of human life, while at Philadelphia it rages with much less violence and in our western cities it is said to be abating

12 Sunday m cloudy, wind NE day generally cloudy with some rain; but in total

August absence of thunder
12 gusts, as if the earth
 and atmosphere even in an
 electrical equilibrium as has been
 the case here; during the season
 of hot weather not one of the
 old aspect having occurred at our
 village since summer commenced.
 A few of these gusts have occurred
 S.E. of us, at Amherst & the
 adjacent towns, where some
 damage has been, done by ~~has~~
 ~~been done by~~ lightning.

13 Monday m. cloudy, with
 rain and N.E. wind, and
 the day was cloudy & fair al-
 ternately. late in the afternoon
 unusually clear, exhibiting its
 a blue aspect-wind changed
 to S.W.—a fall of rain about
 sun set~

14 Tuesday m cloudy, wind SW
 and the day
 The Cholera still continues se-
 vere at New-York—August 10th
 the report of the mayor's office (12 m)
 gives 105 men cases and 51 death.
 At Boston last Friday 6 deaths
 and 24 cases remaining in the
 Hospital. A case is reported at Newburyport

August
14

and 9 cases & 5 deaths at
Hampdon Me, since the 1st inst.
But it is said the disease is genera-
ly on the decline, in the U States
and in Canada; this however
may not be the fact. In
some places where it had ceased,
it is said, it had returned

Rail roads. The Greenfield Cour-
ier says that Alvah Crocker Esqr.
has resigned the office of President
and Mr Johnson the office of Super-
intendant of the Vermont and
Massachusetts Rail road; and that
the stock of the road is now
selling for 30 cents on the dollar
This indicates a disordered state
of the companies concerns, and
when the road from Montague
to Greenfield will be completed is
uncertain. Two expensive bridges
and our green stoned range, pre-
sent no small obstacles to the
route. Mr Crocker has been a
great promoter of rail roads, but
probably he has found that zeal
for them is not money, nor
bonded capital a substitute.

15

Wednesday m. fair, wind
N.E. and the day fair attend
a library meeting at the Library
room to act on a petition
of part of the company who are

August 15 desirous of dissolving the company & dividing the Books.
I presented a plan, a new regulation for a continuance of the Library, and a Committee of three was chosen to make a new draft, to report to the company the first Tuesday of October next. myself, Reverend Mr Moors & Dr S.W. Williams compose the committee.~
We learn that President Taylor while at Harrisburgh Pa. had an attack of the Cholera. His visit at this time I had considered as imprudent, and ought not to have been attempted. while this fatal disease is so prevalent in the country. The loss of this considerable man at this time would be a great evil to the United States We hope he will curtail his tour and return in health to Washington to pursue his useful Service.

16 Thursday m fair; wind N
day fair & wind changed to SW.

Took

August
16 Took a trip through our N meadow
and to Bloody brook via Mill
river in company with Arthur Wil
liams of Boston (a grandson who is
here on a visit) At mill river
called on Mr Horace Williams,
who I always find full of the
spirit of generosity: at his house
his friends alway find ready
refreshments, and kind receptions
There proceeded to Col. Bryants
where we dined; then returned
home. The rute was very pleasant
and the weather fine. The
village of Bloody-Brook now
called south Deerfield exhibits a
flourishing appearance, the houses
generally painted white, and
their meeting house present
elevated spires of the same
colour indicating rather too
great a diversity of religious opi
nions for the harmony of the place
The rail-road Depot and the La
throp monument are conspicuous
objects

17 Friday m. fair, wind W
Some cumulous clouds, appeared
showing some appearance of a
thunder gust; but none occur
red.
A southern project for an
nixing the Island of Cuba to the
United States. It is now ascertained
that a secret military fever is
organized to rid the people of []
[] in an insurrection to put

down the Spanish Government in the Island. The project is not a new one; for it was seen last year under the scheme for a Buffalo hunt. President Taylor has now issued a Proclamation calling on all civil and military officer, to be vigilant & active in opposing any steps to carry out the [] and has ordered a naval force to frustrate the design of the invasions. Some of the accounts say the [] force is to act with [] the northern provinces of Mexico. No doubt our ultra democracy has an eye on both and the Barbados & Jamaica may be the next objects, and the other West India Islands in due time. The democratic plan developed by President Monroe and [] by President Polk, for excluding European nations from any possessions in N. America is in operation, but not meeting the sackson of the present administration other measures must be resorted to: and there is no want of congenial spirits to carry out any plan that can be contrived to effect the original design.

August 18 Saturday m. cloudy
wind SW Sun appeared
before noon, and the day []
fair, but many clouds were
seen, and distant thunder heard
but no rain fell.

19 Sunday. m. fair, wind N
and the day fair but scat-
tering clouds, but no condens-
ations to produce showers or
thunder gusts which have
become rare phenomena, not
one having occurred here during
the summer season, up to this time
This change in our atmospheric
phenomena within 40 or 50
years is not easily accounted
for. Does the clearing of the country
affect evaporation and the
electrical state of the clouds? No
other cause offers an explanation
But the fact seems not to known
to our young people.

20 Monday. M. cloudy, wind
N., the day generally cloudy
but no rain. A friend Mr
Lincoln of this town informs me
that he and his family have resided
about all night in the upland town
of Rowe where he found the air ex-
tremely pleasant & pure; and it now
becomes a question whether our hill town
are not more eligible residences than the
rich alluvial towns of this [] country

August 20 where febrile diseases and cholera prevail.
In the winter season we should prefer our vallies, but on the whole our hill towns may be preferable for healthy residences, though I believe consumption & more common here than in vallies. Rowe is in the vicinity of Hoosac mountain equally elevated above the ocean and the people are said to be very hospitable and regular in their habits. No public house is kept in the town, but [] find accommodation at private houses. In the town are some high hills which afford fine views. In a summer's residence few are more inviting to the philosopher Who "seeks science in the coy abode"

21 Tuesday. m cloudy, wind SW; the day Some rainy, but fair before night.
We learn that President Taylor has recovered his health and is prosecuting his northern tour which we think ill advised at this time when a fatal disease prevails in all parts of our country.

22 Wednesday m. fair
wind S.W. and day fair

August
22

In the Greenfield Courier
of the 20th inst. we found some
[] remarks on Rail-roads
and a tunnel of about three
miles is [], on the Man-
chester & Leeds Rail road in En-
gland; from it is informed
that a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles through
Hoosac mountain is []
Now to me it appears that
among all our projects for
rail roads, none are so desti-
of even a probability of success as
that from Greenfield to Troy
In short the stock seems to
have acquired no value. The pro-
ject may continue to [] its
advocates for a time, but beyond
this it cannot go. Three millions
of dollars it is supposed will car-
ry the road to Williamstown and
other million to Troy. But admit-
ing this sum to be sufficient
we ask where is the sum to be de-
tained not from our []
ever seen to force completion
on the project, and the state of
the Massachusetts & Vermont Road
[][] selling at
Boston for 27 7/8 cents on the
dollar; yet the company advocates
for proposals to construct bridges on
the route from Grouts over the Connecti-
cut & Deerfield Rivers to Greenfield

August
22 It is time to give up utopian
projects and to confine ourselves
to such as are provable and []

[] by the public. [] []
system [] adopted and
the multiplication of rail road and
cease, and the people be convinced
that industry and agriculture on the
farms is their true interest. []

[] has pointed out the course
of rivers & rail-roads, and when
we disregard his dictation
we must suffer disappoint
ment. High mountains will not
be [] to rail roads so long
as gravitation continues to act.

When deep gorges are formed through
Mountains, they may be used for
rail road routes; but in general
the roads through them are too expensive for pro
fit to the owners.

The rail road from Spring
field up the valley of West
field river was an expen
sive undertaking, and with
out the aid of the state could
not have been completed, and
without the same aid the road
from Greenfield to Troy must
remain a visionary project.

23 Thursday m cloudy with rain
and wind NW; the day con
tinued cloudy & wet.

August
23

I have received no late letter from my son at Burlington but am informed that he has nearly completed his section of the road to Brandon and has 10 miles more added to his section. Whether the grading over mount holly is completed I am not informed: Cars it is said are running on the road some distance south of Burlington. I hear very little concerning the price of the stock on th[e] road, but have been informed that it was taken up before the road was commenced. Whether this or the central road through Montpelier will command the trade to Boston is a question to be determined here after: Excepting mount holly, the route is a level one, but requiring some bridges of considerable extent over other otter creek & its complement streams: and some wooden bridges are of short durability I have alway considered them unfavorable to rail-roads A wooden bridge, however well constructed may become defective before it is apparent, and its failure under loaded cars a fatal occurrence. Other bridges are liable to the same accidents, but they are never hailed with a [] []

August 23 Four Cases of sudden death have occurred in the western part of this town either by dysentery or cholera. which at this time may be considered as nearly the same disease. That part of the town is elevated land, and no local cases are known to exist in that section of the town. The dysentery we learn is now prevailing extensively in other towns in N. England.

24 Friday m. fair, wind N; the day was fair & pleasant. Last evening I found on my door step printed hand bill announcing that Dr H Tubbs an Analytical physician, would be in attendance at Hoyts Hotel, where all laboring under disea are invited to receive advice gratis. The same hand bill I am informed was laid at the door of every house in the village. This mode of itinerant practice is found being commendable. A regular resident physician is now deemed necessary in every village and if this itinerary mode be paronized the resident physician may not find business for his support. The invitation is flattering to the multitude for advice nothing is charged, but some [] medium is to be disposed of at

August
24

at a price unknown
Dr meets with patronage it will
evince a low state of scientific know
among the people. To succeed is
this practice, art and cunning are more
important than skill in medi
cine. At this time there is a strange
propensity in the people to be carried
away by new pretences to discov
eries in the science of medicine
A scientific physician of long prac
tice is considered an imposter
Any new scheme under an unknown
[] is believed to be an im
provement, and all old schemes
worthless. Such a propensity of the
people I impute to a sort of a la
mode of education too common
amongst us at this time, the
tendency of which is to prostrate all
all sound scientific knowledge.
But, as in policies, the boldest pre
tender is the most successful
Are we then advancing in use
ful knowledge? Let the informed
man decide. That we have
among us ingenious men who are making
useful improvements, is not denied,
but can this be said of the peo
ple at large?
In our Colleges the higher branch
es of science are taught, but we
are compelled to say they are []
[] too much by the time spent in
the languages of Greece & Rome, the

August the tendency of course
24 is to introduce a pedantic
 technology unfavorable to the
 progress of science; and we
 see many works from the press
 which none but a classical scho
 lar can read & comprehend.
 Nor he without recourse to
 his classical doctrines and musty
 rules of grammar, which become
 obsolete when he engages in the ordi
 nary business of life.

25 Saturday m. fair, wind NE
 and the day very clear and
 [] air; the entire ab
 sence of thunder gusts contin
 ues and is an anomaly at
 this season several occurred in
 each week & some times 2 or 3
 in a day.

26 Sunday m. fair, wind SW
 and the day clear, and
 air pretty warm Two more
 cases of death of occurred
 among the children, in Wisdom, by
 the dysentery. The families of Jones
 and Woods, near neighbors
 The Cholera accounts continue of
 fleeting, but we flatter ourselves the
 disease is generally abating.

August 26 In New England the Cholera, has mad but small progress, but the dysentery seems to have become a substitute and probably the causes of each of each are somewhat similar. In some of our small towns where the cholera was not [] it has prevailed, and no local caus can be assigned for it; while in other [] we should look for a [] [] exist no cases have occurred.

27 Monday m. cloudy, wind S.W. the day fair before noon. For a week past my health has been precarious—almost a constant call for a discharge of urine and a loss of appetite and at times attended with an affection of the teeth in the right lower jaw. and a [] of the bowels. Dr Williams, has given me some medicine to correct the bowels, but my urinary discharges continue very frequent. The truth is my machine is become very feeble and indicates a dissolution
During this state of the body I feel a strong thirst for cold beverages and reflect on the cooling effects of cool water I have often

August cupped from the wild
27 springs & rills on the borders of
 our meadows, when exhausted
 with heat's labor in the hot
 seasons. But my physician
 recommends caution in the
 indulgence. One of these springs
 at the NE part of our pine hill
 in our north meadow, remarkable
 the purity & coolness of its waters
I well recollect. How often have
I been sent to this spring to fill
the runlet for the refreshment of the
almost famished laborers whose
small had become exhausted. and
what refreshing relief was thus
[] this famed spring?
without evident which were
used by laborers on the field when
I was a lad. The abuse of this
[] became common in later
times and was carried to great
excess. Indeed laborers could
scarcely be found without and
allowance in the field. These ar
dent spirits deluded with wa
ter were harmless in hot weather
I have never doubted, but there
is danger in a free use of it at
[] home
In the campaigns of 1755 at
and about Lake George the practice
of brewing molasses & spruce beer was
introduced and was an excellent []

August
27

Since that period ardent spirits
have been considered as essential
in war as gunpowder.
In the late war in Mexico
I am informed tea and coffee were
substituted with good effect, and
if any useful lessons were then taught
lest there be remedied in future
wars; for no others favora
ble to the case of humanity, or
the honor, morality or justice
can be named.

28

Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind S.W.
the day was generally cloudy.
Yesterday I purchased an accous
tick instrument consisting of a flex
ible tube a bell mouth piece and
a focal point, by which I am enabled
to have common conversation
Price, 3 dollars. The instru
ment may be coiled into a small
compass and carried in the pocket.

29

Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.
the day fair & cloudy, or hazy,
Some distant thunder & sprinkly
of rain.
A great meeting has been held in
the City of New-York, to express sym
pathy for the Hungarians who
are now nobly struggling for liberty
and independence, in which many
addresses were made; but such
[] country that we are

Au unable to do [] as a na
 gust tions, we [] its less. But
 29 whether our sympathy will have
 any useful effect is doubtful.
 30 Thursday m. cloudy wind
 SW. Soon fair & warm
 and the day clear.
 The present aspect of Affairs
 in Europe present a gloomy as
 pect and whether they will
 end in a general war & the estab
 lishment of liberty is a matter
 of doubt. In America the
 old democratic spirit of demo
 cracy is still alive and still
 exhibits a spirit for conquest
 Cuba and the Canadas are
 soon for annexed to our Union as
 soon as [] will permit.
 We may sympathise with the Hung
 arians and preach liberty to nations
 but so long as we possess a spirit
 of conquest & disregard the right
 of old nations we but ill de
 serve the esteem of the frie[n]ds
 of man.
 We hear that our President has fre
 quent attacks of the diarrhea
 on his Tour, & has been very un
 well at Erie. This tour I think
 is ill timed & I fear the result

Au
gust
29

will be fatal to the President
If his state of health required a
change of air, we think he should
not have sought it on the shores
of Lake Erie, or on the argil-
lacious, calcareous soils of the
state of New-York, where earth
miasm exhales and poisons
the atmosphere, rendering it un-
fit for respiration

Mr Clay, in search of helth, first
visited Saratoga Springs, and has
now proceeded to Newport in R.I.
said to be the most healthy place
within the United States during the
hot season. In his choice of []
we think he displays more judg-
ment than General Taylor,
who should have consulted his
health, rather than the qualifications
of the multitude.

31
31

Thursday Friday M cloudy, wind S.W.
and the day cloudy, rainy.
In the general cloudyness of the at-
mosphere, [] consists in a spread of
a sort of haze without any cu-
mulous clouds indicating thun-
der gusts, as in former times,
and whether this indicates an
unhealthy state of the atmosphere
we are unable to decide. But
the fact of the absence of thunder
gusts is well known to the atmos-

Au
gust
31

spheric observer of meteorological phenomena.

The prevailing dysentery now spreading over New England is a proof of a cholera state of the atmosphere which in the western states & in the city of New York which has proved so fatal under the moon of cholera. The dysentery then is a modified cholera which requires but a little more of the western misasm to [] the genuine Asiatic cholera. The malady seems to be periodical and may it not become annual? In the various campaigns of armies in this country the dysentery has proven very fatal to the troops, and was ascribed to local causes instead of a peculiar state of the atmosphere More than 100 year ago, an army posted at [], suffered most severely from a malady supposed to have been generated by local causes. Was not this a species of cholera then called camp distemper? Such was the disease among the troops that the expedition against Canada was given up & the army returned home See Smith's History of New-York

Septr 1 Saturday m. fair wind NE
 and day fair, the sky blue
 and some well defined
 clouds, and air somewhat
 cooler. considerable rain
 last night.

2 Sunday m fair wind
 NW, and day fair; an
 cool-- a fire in my room.

3 Monday m. fair, wind N and
 fair day. Many people say
 a light frost was perceptible in
 the evening. We hear of the
 death
 of Moses Eddy of this
 town, and of our industrious
 farmers, aged 87 years. By
 the labor of his hands and care
 ful economy [——] he acquired a
 handsome property and inde-
 pendance.

4 Tuesday m. fair & wind South,
 day fair, but hazy.
 We learn from a N. York pa-
 per of yesterday that Rev. Henry Col-
 man recently died at Islington
 near London of a fever. Mr
 Colman was formerly a resident
 of this town, and was well known
 for his agricultural tour in Europe
 reports of which have been pub-
 lished, containing much valuable
 information. He [] from []
 a gentleman clergyman at []

Sept and published several vols.
 4 of his Sermons. The system of
 Christianity adopted by Mr Col
 man was divested of the dog
 mas and corruption of the old
 school which have so long
 obfuscated the theology of our
 country, and his enlightened
 views tended to dissipate
 the fog which had spread
 over it by the jargon of
 Calvin, which has unaccountedly
 been adopted as Christianity
 through the influence of what
 is called orthodoxy; and his
 attention to philosophical
 agriculture has been advent
 ageous to the public, and his
 published Reports will be read
 with advantage.

5 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind
 NW and the day cloudy
 with some rain. Absence of
 thunder gusts still continue
 and the fact that none has o
 ccurred here during the summer
 season is remarkable. is the
 cholera any way connected with
 the state of the atmosphere?
 We cannot avoid making the que
 ry, nor the impression that the
 atmosphere has, in a degree, lost
 its insulating property and pro
 ducing a sort of equilibrium of dis
 turbance in the atmosphere.

Septr
6

Thursday m. cloudy, wind SW
Soon fair, & day with
its usual haze
The progress of the Cholera in
N England is now greater than was
anticipated at its commencement.
Besides Boston, Lowell & some other
places in that vicinity, it has extend
to Bangor on the Penobscot, but
we hear nothing from it in New
Brunswick & Nova Scotia. To assign
any local causes for its existence in
small towns would be difficult.
and the latitude of places seems to
afford no due to its progress. But I
believe it is found most prevalent, on
large rivers and the shores of large
fresh water lakes. and in places
where there is a thick population
Its appearance at South Hadley
falls & the vicinity on Connecticut
river, was not looked for, while
the lower part of the river has been
nearly exempt, from it. In England
it is said to be very prevalent at this
time, and there we should look to
population as the exciting cause. If
this theory be correct, we may look
for a frightful loss in the City of London
The malady seems not to be
confined to tropical regions, and
we hear little from it on the west in
dia islands & southern Mexico.
The boasted healthiness of the north
ern regions of the globe may have
lost their character for salubrity; and

Sepr

our western country with all of its attractions may become less inviting to immigrants, and the formation of dense settlements in the valley of the Mississippi, abandoned; when our mountains regions will be sought for residences more congenial to health.

Should the cholera become annual, or occur at short periods of years, human life would become more precarious, and old age rare, and our graveyards exhibit mournful lists of the young and middle aged who were swept off by the fatal malady which is now depopulating our heretofore healthy cities & towns.

Whether the cholera is of recent origin is a disputed point; but if it has been known in [] [] country in a milder form, it now exhibits a fatality not less destructive to human life, than in its former stages of the old world

Friday m. cloudy, wind NW the clouds presenting more of the cumulus aspect than has been noticed for sometime, attended with some rain, but the electric fluid still remains in repose.

The day cloudy with some rain at night fair

Saturday m. fair wind N;
The day fair & sky less hazy

7

8

Sept
9

Sunday m fair, wind N
 and the day quite clear
 the sky of a blue aspect.
 The latest accounts of the cho-
 lera represent the malady as
 abating within the U States
 with the exception of Bangor
 on the Penobscot, where it is very
 fatal for so small a popula-
 tion.

10

Monday m. fair, wind N.
 and a blue sky through
 the day a rare instance during this
 season.

Of the secret expedition against
 Cuba for the promotion of a
 revolution in that Island
 much is said in our papers
 but it is believed that through
 the vigilance of President Taylor
 the democratic election willed
 suppressed; but Spain will
 see by what a feeble tie she hold,
 her possession in the neighborhood
 of our territory. We have among
 us many men who are not
 for the rights of nations, and
 the other West Indies islands will
 at length be compelled to submit
 to our vandalism. The plan is
 not new, it has been in operation
 since the reign of Mr Monroe.

Septr 10 Mr Polks invasion of Mexico was but a part of the plan; The moment Great Britain is shorn of her power, and a democratic precedent can be replaced in the white house for west india islands will submit [—] into our full grasp: Such is man when unrestrained by moral considerations.

11 Tuesday m. fair, wind N; the day was fair & air moderate, but the usual haziness appeared at night. To the hazyness I attribute the absence of thunder gust as remarkable this summer. It seems to keep up a sort of electrical equilibrium in the atmosphere, which is not the case in a highly insulating state of the air But whether this has any effect on the clouded state of the atmosphere I cannot decided. Nor do I suppose there is a dimution of the [] of electricity in the atmosphere, an equilibrium is sufficient for the phenomena.

12 Wednesday m fair, wind SW; the day the same, with its usual haze. A Book Salesman offered me Swards life of John Q Adams 1 Vol. 8 vo, price \$1.25 a handsome work; but

Sept.
12

my impaired sight compelled
me to decline the purchase. The
peculiar character of Mr Adams,
and the known ability of the author
were strong incentives to the pur
chase. The work was printed at
Auburn, and is handsomely
executed. and cheap. Thus to
be deprived of the pleasure of reading
is one of the misfortunes of age.

The recent return of President
Taylor to the city of Washington is propitious
and it is fortunate for us that we
have so vigilant a Commander at our
helm at this time, when the evil
passions of a portion of our commu
nity are disposed to upset the harmony
which now exists between us & Spain.
Under a President of a different
character what might we not expect.
In short we are an uneasy people
with whom neighboring nation can
long preserve peace; and these []
men claim to be republicans who
are governed by the rights of man!
The President may facilitate the
scheme; but will he be able to vindi
cate the spirit that presents it?
He might as well attempt to
still the winds or storms of
the ocean. This spirit is wild,
revolutionary & necessarily []

with

Sept governments based on universal suffrage, and will continue so long as the people can be led by designing demagogues. For the happiness of a country under a republican form of government it is essential that the people be virtuous and pay strict regard to the rights of other nations. We may become powerful and rob our neighbors of their possessions, be it what people will hold us respectable? Alas as portion of our people seem to have lost sight of the [] principles on which the glory of nations is founded & history will have a [] tale to relate.

13 Thursday m. fair, wind W.
and day fair, and air
[] warm.
We hear that the dysentery prevails in many of our towns. May not this be called the Cholera of New-England which under local existing causes proves genuine? I recollect seasons when it proved fatal under the name of camp distemper. The new bank at Greenfield, we are informed is now in operation and a stack of new bills issued.

Sept
13

Of late years much clamor has been heard against banks; they have been represented as monopolies conferring advantages on our moneyed capitalists to the detriment of others; but experience has demonstrated their utility, if not absolute necessity in a mercantile community. In the establishment of new banks it is necessary to avoid a multiplication of them beyond the wants of the public and that sufficient gold & silver is deposited in the vaults to maintain the value of the bills issued. When the profits of a bank fall short of paying a due rate of interest on its capital, it becomes sickly and will ultimately fail; and this may be the consequence of too great a [] of them.

14

Friday. m. cloudy, wind W;
Sun out at noon. and they day fair, with its usual haziness.

A rumor by the rail road train announces the death of President Taylor at Washington by the cholera, said to have been received at Springfield by telegraphic communication. I fear it will prove true. We

Sepr
14

We wait with anxiety
for a repetition of the rumor.

But our fears are []
from the effects of his ill timed
tour to North, undertaken at
the urgent invitation of his friends in
that section of the Union.
During an indisposition for some
time past I have been taking [] a
medicine, D Murrays Fluid Magni
sia under the direction of Dr
Williams, our physician; If it is a
patent medicine, its composition is
however, otherwise I should not
taken it into my stomach. It claims
to be antacid, & an [], and
is not disagreeable to the taste. Thus
I make it a rule never to take medi
cine whose composition is unknown
to scientific physicians, well knowing
[] Secret medicines are often
useless, if not detrimental to
health. But it is a fact that
our best read physicians are disinterest
ed & bold pretenders selected in
pressure by the people. This is a
[] error & perhaps inevitable~
To ensure compliance []
physician must be a man
of general science, of discriminating
judgment, and of acute observation
Open and avid, [] arrives at []
[] distinction & []

Sept 15 Saturday m. cloudy, and
W the day became far
rain
The rumor of President Taylors
death was not confirmed by the last
nights train We understand he
has been attacked by the cholera, since
his return, but hopes are entertained
of his recovery.
The secret expedition against
Cuba, it is said, is like to be sup
pressed, but the vandalic spirit
remains among us and prob
ably will soon appear in another
form. Delunda est Carthago
is still the motto. Alas! What
a departure from the principle of
liberty which pervaded our Country
in the days of Washington!

16 Sunday M. fair, wind SW
the day continued fair but
with its [] haziness []
the ground is pretty dry.

17 Monday m. cloudy, wind
N.W.; sun seen at noon; the
day generally cloudy & I []
rain fill

18 Tuesday. m. fair, wind N.
and the day pretty clear
the air moderate

19 Wednesday m. fair wind NW
and day fair & clear

Sept 19 The day the volunteer military companies of militia of this part of the State, assemble at Northampton for two days of camp duty according to the requirements of our militia laws. Whether the present plan is the best adapted to our condition, is a question of some importance. The troops receive an annual sum from the state for their services. But it is not to be supposed they will imbibe the mechanical habits & instruction necessary for soldiers in so short a time. Perhaps the most useful part of the present system is, to keep up a sort of military spirit which will be found useful in case of a defensive war. But so long as a portion of community disregard the obligation of morality, so long will a military force be necessary for the peace of nations. With the present thirst for conquest which is felt in some parts of the U. States, what but a military force could maintain peace with neighboring nations with which we are now in harmony. When men shall become universally virtuous military forces will be useless, and not until then.

20 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE but the sun out before noon

Septr
20

and the day continued
fair and the sky somewhat
of the blue cast, but []
no distinctly defined clouds,
and the absence of thunder gust
is still remarkable. Who can
say he recollects such a summer
season, or one more replete
with fatal sickness of various
kinds, all, perhaps, connected
with a choleric state of the at
mosphere.

21

Friday m. fair, wind NE;
and the day was fair & pleas
The military muster at North
ampton, I am informed, consisted
of 15 companies, or rather half com
infantry, riflemen & artillery, at
tended by a large concourse of
spectators; and that all was
orderly conducted, and closed
by an address from our adju
tant General.

Two or three cases of the chole
ra, I am informed, occurred among
the troops during the two days of
service, this shad anticipated would
be the case.

If the present militia of our
state affords a sufficient protect
tive force it is evidently and
improvement of the old one which
attempted to discipline the whole
In the late war with Mexico our
main force consisted of volunteers

corps

Sept corps raised from the []
 21 of the country but better cal-
 culated for sudden conquest
 than permanent service in a
 protracted war. But we thwart
 the aid of our West point school
 their tactics very defective
 and their battles of uncertain
 results.

22 Saturday m. cloudy,
 wind N.E. air cool and
 the day cloudy & fair by turns
 This is autumnal equinox,
 when we look for a change
 of weather, but not always
 favorable to health, the autumnal
 season sometimes proving the most
 sickly.

23 Sunday m. clear, wind W.
 and and day was some
 rainy & cool-pretty cool.
 Mr. Edward Stebbins one
 of my son's assistants on the
 Burlington & Rutland rail road
 arrived here yesterday; he informs
 me that my son's section of
 road is nearly completed and
 the gravelling a [] in pro-
 gress. The line over Mount holly
 is not fully graded; this part I
 have considered difficult from
 elevation and curves. A rail road
 he say is constructing from the Rutland
 road to Troy.

Sept
24

Monday m. cloudy, wind NW, but soon became fair, with many well defined clouds & blue sky I notice these as unusual during the past summer in addition to an absence of thunder gusts during the same season, the most remarkable within my recollection.

Medical During my illness for sometime past, I have suffered much from sickness at the stomach which I have endeavored to allay by moderate draughts of cold water which have not always produced the desired effect. Hop or spruce beer, charged with carbonic acid has had a different result and I now feel a thirst for fermented diluted ale porter &c. but which my physician would indulge me in large draughts is doubtful; but he does not entirely prohibit them. Brandy & other diluted ardent spirits soon become nauseous to the taste but perhaps necessary as a stimulus small doses of [] seem to have a temporary effect in removing the sickness, but no so effectively as carbonic acid which was always a favorite beverage with me, and particularly our small family beer when properly fermented. To the labor what a beverage~ In

Sept In the morning, he went
 24 cheerfully to the distant fields
 carrying his wooden bottle
 of beer and similar dish of food,
 deposited them in some cool
 place; at noon dined in the
 shade of the head land tree
 and at night returned to his
 home and supped on the
 plain repast prepared by
 the frugal house wife with no
 other stimulus than the pure
 saccharine mug of cider from
 the cool cellar, bountifully stored
 with this healthy beverage.
 This was the general practice when
 I was a lad, and none were
 more healthy than the industrious
 laborer.~

25 Tuesday m. fair, wind SW and
 a fair day followed.

26 Wednesday m. fair, wind SW;
 the day cloudy & fair, but most
 ly cloudy.

27 Thursday m. fair, wind West.
 and the day fair. Last night
 some rain fell.

28 Friday m. fair, wind SW
 and day fair.

29 Saturday m. fair, wind
 SW (SW) and day fair

Sept. until late afternoon; then
 29 general haze overspread the sky
 30 Sunday m cloudy wind NE
 some rain last night, and
 a small quantity before the
 night; the day cloudy
October
 1 Monday m. cloudy
 with rain' wind NE, the
 day continued some what
 rainy. We now enter upon
 the cool season, without hav
 ing experienced one real thunder
 during the summer, at this place
 a most extraordinary case in me
 teorology.
 2 Tuesday m. fair, wind NE
 frost seen in the morn. The
 day fair & pleasant, but becoming
 hazy before night. When frost
 occur we look for more pure
 air in the atmosphere.
 A friend (Mr Luke Wright) sends me
 a bottle of well cleansed new ci
der which I find delicious to the
 taste and I believe very healthy
 when drank in due quarters.
 3 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N.
 and the day generally cloudy
 with cool air.
 4 Thursday m. cloudy & rainy
 wind NE & the day cloudy
 and rainy. [] [] []

Octr
4
1849

Thursday,
Col. Noah Wells of Rowe
made me a call. He is on his
return from the Whig Con
vention at Worcester. Says they
had a spirited meeting, and
nominated the former Governor
and Lt Governor and had many
able speeches. He appears in the
vigor of life and usefulness—is
a valuable man. A majority of
such in the State would ensure as
prosperity, tranquility & happiness
In the Convention were many of
our best patriots, and that an
advers party should be found
among us is an anomaly not to
be accounted for, but by supposing
the existence of a wild spirit, that
would hostile to the best organ
ized society man is capable of
forming: But I am not prepared
to say that all who are urging
innovations in our State Govern
ment are conscious of preserving
a course destructive to our welfare
but I am compelled to own that
many of these [] have tak
in up their opinions from false
promises, or superficial views which
more enlarged views would have
enabled them to accord.
If this opposition to [] it
needs not the gift of prophecy to be
[] [] that will follow

Octr 5 Friday m cloudy, wind NE
 rain last night; and most of
 fair

6 Saturday m cloudy with some
 rain last night, and most of
 the day ~~fair~~ cloudy & rainy

7 Sunday m cloudy, with NE
 wind & the day cloudy with rain
 I have several new and interesting
 works on my table, but in these
 cloudy days am not able to peruse
 a great misfortune to one of my hab
 its, and for which I find no
 substitute

8 Monday m cloudy, wind NE
 the day cloudy excepting a short
 interval of sun shine about noon
 The same haziness of the atmos
 phere which has prevailed through
 the summer still continues; and
 we seldom see any well defined
 clouds, and thunder gusts
 seem to be [] as if
 the laws of electricity, evaporation
 and condensation were changed.
 At any rate I think we say that
 meteorological phenomena during
 the past summer has been singular
 if not unparalleled

9 Tuesday m. fair, wind NE
 but before noon the sky was
 covered with the usual haze, as
 the day continued cloudy cool
 the air [] cold Sun's
 declination $6^{\circ} 2' 4''$ South

Octr
10

Wednesday m. cloudy
 wind N.E. The clouds
 a general haze over the sky
 as usual. The past summer
 during which time few or
 no brisk winds have prevailed;
 as in case of thunder gusts;
 which are supposed to pur
 ify the air. Whether this state
 of the atmosphere will explain
 the sickness of the season is a
 question for the philosopher.
 That the cholera is an at
 mosphere disease cannot be doubt
 ed; but the virus may be gen
 erated in the earth and diffused
 in the atmosphere by exhala
 tion; and it is a fact that it
 is most prevalent on the vicinity
 of large rivers & fresh water lakes.
 Dense population is an exacting cause
 but places situated on the sea
 coast seem to be exempt from it
 in a certain degrees. The city of N.
 York may be supposed an exception
 But if the Hudson did not ex
 ist it is doubtful whether the dis
 ease would have been [] there
 This subject demands investigation

Mr George Wilson of Boston son
 of Col. Wilson of this town made
 me a call. He was a member of the
 state Whig convention at Worcester, and
 was promise of usefulness in the
 [] community of the

Oct
10

proceedings of this convention, he speaks in high terms, and say the principles speeches delivered, are printed in the papers at Boston and we hope will appear in the standard papers of the interior which seldom given is but scraps.

Fortunately for our State we find enlightened patriots who know the value of liberty and afford influence on preserving it in its purity~

The day continued cloudy except a short time at noon when the sun appeared & and a sprinkling of rain fell

11

Thursday. m cloudy with rain wind N.E.; the day continued rainy.

[] farmer has just dressed a hog of 6 ½ months, following which weighed 413 lbs, sold at 7 cents the lb.=\$28.91. exclusive of the anterior land. Would not the fallowing of swine upon a large scale be profitable to the farmer of N. England?

12

Friday m. fair, wind NW and some well defined detached clouds, indicating a more pure atmosphere than has prevailed for month past & [] for [] towards night.

Octr 12 where dense broken clouds
 Of the old aspect, overspread
 the sky.
 A sort of Cattle show at Green
 field this day, got up probably
 by the traders of that village ra
 ther than the neighboring farmers
 who will not drive their cattle
 Let that place [] to be
 that they are fine breeds. No
 premiums are offered for excel
 ance but the farmers are
 to be compensated for their trou
 ble in the next weeks papers. Hints
 are given that an agricultural society
 at the meeting and a petition []
 red to the General Court for a Charter
 and of course State funds to sus
 tain it. The central society at No
 ampton under proper regulations would
 answer all the purposes of the three
 counties of old Hampshire

13 Saturday m. fair, wind N
 followed by a fair day.
My State of Health For about
 one week past I have been under
 a bit of wasting pain, attended
 with a loss of appetite & sickness of
 the stomach, which has created a
 strong thirst for drinks, and with
 in a few days I have been afflicted
 with the old man's
 complaint

Octr
13

Symtoms of decay—swelled
legs. I have taken various
medicines under the direction of
Dr. Williams, but all I can
expect from the, is the smooth
ing of the path of my exit.
At my age, when the vital
functions are giving away, in
vain we look for a recovery
and bredth: My age is more
nearly 84 years, and seems to be
nearly spun. My fear is that
I may become a troublesome charge
to my friends.

“To each unthinking being heaven a friend
Gives not the useless knowledge of its end;
To man imparts it, but with such a view;
As while he dreads it, makes him hope it too.”²⁵

I have lived in an eventful
period of the worlds History and
to recount the events, would
fill up volumes in additions to
these that have been written.

Sunday m. fair, wind NE
frost last night, pretty severe
the day a bright sun shine
and a blue sky generally.

14

Remarks This [] I
am told, is found in our hill towns
and on our own hills but
rather I [] sun through []

²⁵ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle III.

Octr
14

will []. A gentleman presented me a specimen from Whately, large and fine, which I eat with high relish without any apparent ill effects. In our vally towns they are rare, and the crop of apples small and very little cider will be made; than which I believe a more wholesome beverage is not to be found, if it be carefully prepared, ~~and~~ that in clean barrels, and drank in due quantities: This article and and a plenty of sound apples I consider of the first importance to the farmer. In this expression of my opinion I am aware that I differ from those who are entitled to respect.

15

Monday. m. fair, wind SW;
and the day fair until night

In my remark of yesterday I noticed the importance of the apple [] it. When a lad, a trip through our extended orchards was pleasant in the month of May. The trees were in full blossom and appeared to be one connected flower; the breeds were busy in []

See page 40 []

Octr
16 Tuesday m. cloudy but
soon fair, wind SW and
the day fair.
Our maples begin to put
the fall hue.

17 Wednesday m
day cloudy, wind S.
and day fair but hazy.
The changes we observe in the
color of leaves at this season is
caused by a decreased []
which the sap changes
its reflexes The process I be
lieve may be emulated by chem.
ical composition. Were it poss
ible to change the refraction power
of the prism similar effects could
be produced; and instead of
the red rays, for instances, we
might perceive those of a different
color. See Newtons optics. and
other authors on the subject, from
Two letters from son
& wife at Burlington all well
is common

18 Thursday m. cloudy, wind
W; the day fair
My kind friends send me

kind acts we see the []
 ings of civilization & benevo
 lence, we See the difference
 between civilized man and
 the rude tribes. Acts of benevo
 lence I think are congenial
 to the human mind, and that
 depravity assigned to man
 by a certain sect is far
 from admissible We see
 instances of depravity, it is
 true, but but let us not im
 pute it to a wise Creator

19

Friday m fair and
 the same wind W.

My full sate of health
 and my impaired eye sight
 admonish me that my
 [] is nearly over
 I commenced taking notes and
 remark in 18 1824 and the em
 ployment was no onerous a
 task. What I have written here
 has been the work of little
 preparation, and is []
 the reflection offhand and often
 at random

Octr
19

The dates of events, may be
of use if appealed to
I commit the whole
to my Son Arthur W Hoyt trust
ing that he will keep the whole
within his precinct, as
they are not intend for
the public eyes; there though
in many instances trifling
events have been noticed, he
will not find them entirely
unimportant. as matters
of reference. I am aware, how
ever, that the perusal of the whole
so carelessly written would be
a task beyond his pa
tience.

20

Saturday m. fair, wind W
and fair day.
Peaches offered for 4/ per bush
el. I bot a peck. When ripe &
large they are delicious fruit.
found in perfection in N. Jersey
and now sent [] in New Jersey
in closed bushels to []
of the U States by rail roads.

Oetr a variety of [] []
18 byt my [] stomach
 forbids indulgence in these

21 Sunday m partially fair
 wind N, and day fair
 and pleasant. My Daugh-
 ter Bryant who has with me
 several days returned home at
 night, after affording me much
 aid. In case of sickness []
 [] is beyond []
 we then fill their [] and
 wonder at their patience.

22 Monday M cloudy and
 rainy, wind NE; the Et-
 mountain covered with fog. and
 the day similar.

23 Tuesday m. fair, wind
 SW and the day fair and
 pleasant. The water of the
 River at S. Hadley was let in
 to the basin yesterday, with
 success. A large factory is now
 to be established at that place.
 a second []

Octr Wednesday. M fair wind W.
24 and day fair. & []
 air.
25 Thursday m fair, wind
 N.W. and fair day.
26 Friday m. fair, wind
 and the day continued
 fair.

Sir John Franklin The
adventurous expedition under
the command of this officer and
the total want of intelligence con-
cerning him, has occasioned much
sensibility in the public mind.
We had supposed the where were
in the Northern ices by shipwreck
or starvation. But we now have
the cheering account that Sir
Johns two ships entered Prince
regents sound four years ago
where he remained up to the this
time firmly fixed in the ice
and that subsistence had been
found for the crews. The intel-
ligence was obtained from an
 Esquimoe

Esquimoen Indian who says he has been on board of each ship, and conveyed to the English Admiralty by a whale ship. The design of the voyage was to pass along the northern sea from Davis Staits to that of Behrings. The account seems to be authentic and way look for the restoration of Sir John & his crews to their country. The extreme danger of this voyage we might suppose would deter any from attempting it; But whoever heard that a British naval officer declined the most arduous service, when its reputation was pending? The route however can never be practably useful, for it will seldom happen that it will be clear of ice.

Great Britain has long been the [] on the seas, but [] was on the deep, but whether she is longer to sustain the supremacy is a question Lieutenant Burne she may find and become remarkable only for her [] in her public debt in [] a full.

Octr

27

Wednesday m. fair, wind

Saturday m. fair, wind

S. and day fair & fine

The account of the discovery
of Sir John Franklin's ships
is corroborated by the arrival
of a whale ship at New Lon-
don on the 17th instant.

Should the Sea remain
frozen the crews may es-
cape to the coast by a march
over the ice as in the case
of Capt. Ross. That the crews
should have found subsist-
ance for four years without
supplies from home, is extraordinary
Sir John we think will be wanting
to return to England by his ordered
route without further experiment

Sunday m. fair wind N.

the day fair but hazy

My friend Lincoln entertained
me by reading in the after-
noon and my Daughter re-
turned home to S. Deerfield.

29

Monday [—] light rain

and the day much the same and also foggy. Our farmers have now nearly completed their corn harvest which [] about pretty well. Under the notion of economy they have conducted to suspend the full [] of the meadows, a scheme I think they will abandon the next year. The reduction of a month to their long winter fodder will be found an unnecessary expence and add little to the fertility to the soil. The notion I think is taken up without due consideration and if found penny wise will be pound foolish The great science of improvement in agriculture is the application of manure to the soil and they may be prepared from almost any agreeable animal stools [] that amount of chemical.

Octr Monday m cloudy [—]
21 some rain wind
Oct Yesterday a valuable cow
30 was ran down & killed at our
village of Wappin. With a ve
locity of 20 miles per hour it
is impossible wholly to avoid these
accidents; and it is a question
whether half this speed would
answer all useful purposes.
31 Wednesday m partially
cloudy the day
Our deciduous trees are now
nearly shorn of their foliage and
the transition trees [] []
The cold season is now ap
proaching, but with warm cloudy
stacks of dry fuel, supplies of food
and [] man passes the wint
er season pleasantly; not so with
the poor who devoured our con
sumption & [] Aid Pinch
ing poverty is a bitter pill in cold
climates and man perhaps suf
fers more severely than animals []
hibernation in the ground. The []
[] is even [] & beyond our
comprehension but if we cannot
comprehend it we may admire the
the manner. []

No Thursday m. fair
vember wind NE and the day
1 cloudy. Yesterday a few flakes of
snow were seen to fall.
2 Friday m. fair wind
NE, and the day was
Died at S Deerfield on the
24th alt. Revd. William Riddle
aged 81 years and 9 months
Mr Riddle had been a settled
clergyman in Whitingham Vt and
Bristol Maine, and is said to
have acquired a considerable class
ical learning. and offers []
essays on various subject in the
publications of the day. His
religious sentiments were of the
old the old orthodox school.
In the course of the war with
~~——~~ and masonry he often
distinguished himself by his es
says [] the order; and
had a lively sense of the atro
city exhibited in the mur
der of William Morgan. His
theology world views would have
[] more serviceable to []

Nov
2

had he adopted more
of the whole philosophical spirit
which now embraces the
attention of the liberal clergy, who
are pruning Christianity of its
corruption by Calvin & others

Mr Riddle was a native of
Colrain & educated at Dartmouth
College

This month was formerly
the hunting season, and how
often have traversed the
[] woods & dark defiles
with my long leaded gun and
sagacious dog in search of game
and brought home the squir
rel and partridge! The Sport
though rather barbarous was
rendered interesting by the void
ity of the prosecuted, not re
flecting that innocent ani
mals were the sufferers. At early
[] we [] [] of the
[] when [] generally [] our
old [] and taught us
that his speed & instinct were

and I do not flatter my
self with one convalescent
Symptom all indicating
a fatal derangement of the
machine. “Oh could I lift
the arm as in the day Fingal”²⁶

4 Sunday m. fair, wind NE
 and day fair & pleasant,
 but hazy at the close.

5 Monday m. cloudy, wind
 NE cloudy with some
 rain.

6 Tuesday m. cloudy early
 some rain & NE wind.
 continued cloudy cloudy
 The death the widow
 of the late [] Stebbins
 was an announced this morn

7 Wednesday m cloudy
 wind SW and day
 similar

8 Thursday m. cloudy
 wind NW
 the same

²⁶ James Macpherson’s *Ossian*, Croma poem.